



# THE INDEPENDENT

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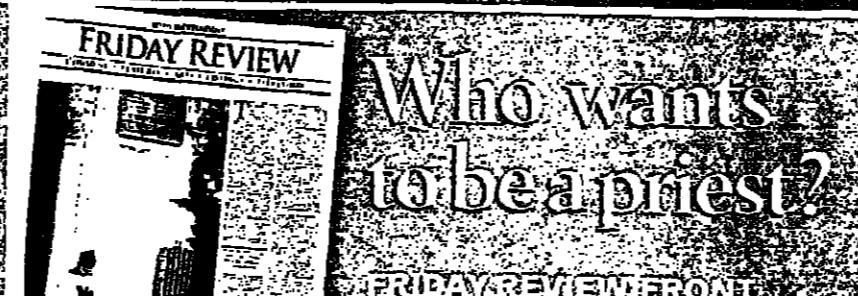
28-PAGE NEWS SECTION



David Hare  
an actor?

NEWS PAGE 6

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW



FRIDAY REVIEW FRONT

In bed with  
AN Wilson

DESIGN, JUSTICE, LITERATURE & ART

## Tory plot to reverse gay consent bill

A COMBINATION of Tory backwoods peers, bishops, and Labour rebels was last night preparing to overturn the massive Commons vote to lower the age of consent for gays to 16.

Tory campaigners believe they can rally around 300 Tory and crossbench peers to vote down the move, which was given an overwhelming majority in the Commons last month by 336 votes to 129.

The campaign to reverse the Commons vote to include the measure in the Govern-

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

ment's Crime and Disorder Bill is being led by Baroness Young, a former Tory leader of the House of Lords during the Thatcher era. She said last night: "This was tacked on to the Bill at the last gasp. There was no chance for a proper debate. I think to introduce something at this very late stage was wrong and the House of Lords has a constitutional right to express an opinion."

Gay rights supporters were horrified by the threat to overturn their victory in the Commons, which they celebrated outside Parliament a month ago. Peter Tatchell, leader of the gay pressure group OutRage, said: "It is time the unelected House of Lords was abolished, and if there is a showdown over the age of consent, hopefully this will speed its abolition."

Baroness Young will be marshalling support over the weekend, bringing in peers from the backwoods to vote against

the amendment when the Bill is debated next Wednesday.

The Conservatives are promising a free vote, but many senior Tories, possibly including Baroness Thatcher, are expected to turn out to reject it.

"There is a huge moral-majority, right-wing, churchy, moralistic group of peers who will vote against it. It is sickening the way they make this a major thing," said a Liberal Democrat source.

Labour peers are being offered a free vote, but if Lady

Young brings in the Tory peers, even on a free vote, they would be almost certain to win. The Government could not use the Parliament Act to force through the Crime and Disorder Bill, because it originated in the Lords, leaving ministers with an acute dilemma over whether to lose the law and order measure, or concede defeat because of the shortage of time.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken out against the reduction in the age of consent for gays on the grounds that it

sends out the wrong signals. The Lambeth Conference next week could, however, reduce the number of bishops taking part in the vote.

Baroness Young said: "I think there will be a lot of support on the Conservative benches [to overturn the vote]. A public opinion poll showed that 70 per cent would not reduce the age of consent. You have a situation where public opinion polls show that the majority of the population are not in favour of lowering the age of consent and the

House of Lords has the right to tell the Commons to think again.

"I think this is the thin end of the wedge. The next thing is the homosexual groups will be asking for the age of consent to be lowered to 14, homosexual marriages, and the repeal of Clause 28 of the Local Government Act which prohibits teaching about homosexuality in schools. I think most parents don't want homosexual teaching in schools."

The Tory leader, William Hague told *The Independent* at

the time of the Commons vote that he supported a reduction in the gay age of consent, but he was ill and unable to take part in the debate. His office said last night he remained in favour despite Lady Young's stand.

The Bill would have returned to the Commons, if the gay sex amendment was thrown out, and MPs are certain to insist on it being put back into the legislation. With the Commons due to rise on 31 July, next week's vote could delay the passage of the Bill until October.



Tiger Woods prowls the 14th green at Royal Birkdale yesterday on his way to a 65 - and a share of the lead - in the first round of the Open Championship.

David Ashdown

## Straw backs security men on the beat

JACK Straw yesterday welcomed controversial plans to employ private guards as a second security "force" to patrol Britain's streets.

The Home Secretary said there was a "real possibility" that the proposals would be adopted and said that he welcomed the debate on "complementing" the role of the police.

The public understand you can't have a police officer walk-

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

ing up and down the street all day and every day," he said after addressing the annual conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

He said it was important that the "context" in which private patrols was now debated.

The idea was proposed at the Birmingham conference by

the police would train, licence and manage all guards - from the security officers working in High Street shops to local authority patrols in housing estates.

The private forces, kitted in special uniforms and issued with radios and badges, could include recruits from welfare to work programmes.

The idea was proposed at the Birmingham conference by

Surrey Chief Constable Ian Blair who insisted he was not advocating the end of beat bobbies, but simply recognising the reality of what was happening on Britain's streets.

It comes as police chiefs admit they are unable to provide enough patrol officers. The plan immediately prompted fears that it could mark the end of the traditional beat bobby - but this was fiercely de-

nied. The Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said it could lead to "policing on the cheap" and a "two tier" police system.

Michael O'Byrne, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, warned there was a danger that the public would be "conned" into thinking the accredited patrollers were offering a service comparable to the police.

In his speech to the confer-

ence Mr Straw delivered a tough warning that chief constables must tackle the abuse of sick leave and early retirement by officers. He said the system was costing £250m a year and sickness accounted for a third of all retirements. Unless it was dealt with, forces could face budget cuts, he said.

Private force may police the streets, page 9.

## Anti-obesity drug could soon be available on prescription

BY GLENDA COOPER

A NEW type of diet pill that stops fat being absorbed into the human body could be the "first step to defuse the timebomb of obesity", the *Lancet* medical journal reports today.

Trials lasting two years found that those taking orlistat, the anti-obesity drug, lost nearly twice the amount of weight after a year and regained less weight in the second year than those who were put on a placebo pill.

But nutrition experts warned that orlistat - which could be available on prescrip-

tion in the UK from the autumn - must be subject to rigid controls. They fear that many people who are only slightly overweight may demand it, putting a strain on the health budget in the way Viagra threatens to do.

The problem of obesity is said to have hit "epidemic proportions". In the UK the overweight and obese population increased by almost 15 per cent between 1980 and 1992, by which time 54 per cent of men and 45 per cent of women were affected.

Orlistat, which is produced under the brand name Xemical,



blocks absorption of fat in the gut so that it is excreted instead of ending up as fatty tissue. It is the first approved treatment for obesity that is not an appetite suppressant.

## Families dump adopted children in Hungary

BY ADAM LEBOV  
in Budapest

TWO AMERICAN families who each adopted a young Hungarian boy have returned the children to Hungary claiming the youngsters' behaviour is abnormal and intolerable.

The boys, now aged eight and 10, were adopted in 1996 and taken to live in Connecticut, officials said. The boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, are now in a children's home in the northern town of Eger.

Child welfare officials fear that the unprecedented move could set a trend: foreign par-

ents dumping adopted children who have difficulty adjusting to the fast pace of modern Western life.

"These boys came from a deprived family background and nobody was willing to adopt them in Hungary. This is the first time children adopted by foreigners have been returned," said Erika Pehr, spokeswoman for the Hungarian Welfare Ministry.

Welfare officials are now trying to rebuild the children's lives after being abandoned by their adoptive parents. The adoptive parents have now started legal proceedings to

terminate the adoption under Hungarian law.

But the children are still hopeful that their adoptive parents will one day come back to fetch them. "The small child still expects his father to turn up. He talks about his Daddy and is waiting for him. He keeps drawing pictures showing his father as being very close to him," said Dr Magdolna Nagy, head of Heves County Child Protection Service.

Social workers fear that the two boys will be emotionally damaged by the stress of being abandoned by adults they grew to regard as their new parents.

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A teacher who gave up a career after allegedly being bullied by a head-teacher has won £10,000

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Robin Cook insisted ministers were not involved in the Sandline arms-to-Africa affair

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Gerard Houllier, part of France's World Cup management, is joint manager of Liverpool



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A 39-year-old man was arrested yesterday after a British couple were subjected to a brutal sex attack on the first day of a holiday in Florida.

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The playwright Sir David Hare is to make his acting debut at the age of 51, in a one man show. He will play himself, in a new play by himself, understood to be partly about himself.

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## Euro ban on cut-price UK clothes

Leading supermarket groups pledged to defy a controversial European court ruling that will make it harder for British consumers to buy cut-price designer goods.

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## FOREIGN NEWS

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## Jail for Israeli who sold nerve gas

An Israeli court yesterday sentenced Nahum Manbar, 52, ex-paratrooper and businessman, to sixteen years in prison for selling materials to make mustard gas and nerve gases to Iran.

Page 14

## Moshood Abiola 'was killed'

Moshood Abiola was killed and did not die of a heart attack, as preliminary autopsy results have shown, the Nigerian playwright and Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka has claimed.

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## BUSINESS NEWS

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## Manufacturers face 'meltdown'

The British Chambers of Commerce warned that the UK was facing a "manufacturing meltdown", with falling orders from both home and abroad.

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## Millar 'will derail Biotech drugs'

British Biotech, the troubled drug company, warned the development of two of its star drugs could be derailed by regulators because of the actions of Andrew Millar, its sacked director of clinical research.

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## SPORTS NEWS

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## Surrey boosted by Hollioake's 59

A quick 59 of just 77 balls from Adam Hollioake helped the County Championship leaders Surrey extend their lead against Middlesex at Guildford.

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## Doctor denies part in Tour drugs

The doctor at the centre of the Tour de France drugs allegations says he knows nothing about the discovery of illegal substances in a car belonging to the Festina team.

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## FRIDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

## Suzanne Moore

"The BBC is still crippled by bureaucracy, overbearing self-importance and a completely patronising attitude towards those who actually watch its programmes."

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## Anthony Sampson

"But how do you connect up all these different Mandelas: the herd-boy, the Johannesburg lawyer, the guerrilla leader, the prisoner, the president? It is a daunting task."

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## Derek Draper

"Prat, yes. Pipsqueak, no. And traitor? Come off it."

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# NHS goes abroad to recruit doctors

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

HOSPITALS MAY be forced to send recruitment officers overseas in search of doctors and nurses to treat an extra three million NHS patients over the next three years.

Frank Dobson, the health secretary, announced the three million target to the Commons yesterday and said the NHS would take on an extra 7,000 doctors and 15,000 nurses to meet it. He said there should be "no more systematic use of short-term contracts for nurses and other staff", implying that they will all get proper jobs.

The NHS Confederation said it took three years to train a nurse and seven years to train a doctor so the extra staff would have to come from among those already qualified. Nurses who had left the NHS for other work might be enticed back with improved pay and conditions but doctors were another problem.

Stephen Thornton, director of the confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts, said: "As soon as Mr Dobson announced the extra £18 million for the NHS in England on Tuesday, we realised we were going to face the bottleneck of getting the staff to do the job. Are we going to have to go so far as recruiting in Europe and beyond - with all the implications of fostering a brain drain from South Africa? We might not have any choice."

Mr Thornton was referring to protests by President Nelson Mandela last year about the activities of some NHS trusts which had raided the coun-

try's medical elite to fill consultant posts in Britain.

The British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing echoed the same concern. Christine Hancock, general secretary of the RCN, said: "Where are these nurses going to come from if we don't tackle pay? There are currently 3,000 nursing vacancies and hospital trusts are finding it more difficult to recruit."

The health department said there were an estimated 100,000 qualified nurses in Britain who were no longer working in the NHS. A spokesman said: "Only a proportion will be interested in returning, but with extra investment and a programme of modernisation in the NHS we can end the demoralisation and attract people back."

Reducing the drop-out rate from medical schools, estimated at over 10 per cent, could go a long way to meeting the target of 7,000 extra doctors, he said. To meet longer term staffing needs, Mr Dobson announced an extra 6,000 nurse training places and more places in medical schools. The government medical manpower committee has called for an extra 1,000 medical school places.

To Labour cheers, he pledged there would be no new patient charges in the lifetime of the parliament. Ann Widdecombe, Tory health spokeswoman, accused him of "creative accounting" claiming that the £18 billion for England over the next three years amounted to just £2.1 billion in real terms on top of Conservative spending plans.

THE HANDOVER of arms by paramilitaries in Northern Ireland is expected to go ahead on schedule, but it is not imminent, according to the man in charge of the decommissioning programme.

The comments by Canadian General de Chastelain came amid speculation that the IRA was preparing to give up some of its arsenal within the next few weeks.

General de Chastelain said he believed decommissioning would get underway before 22 May 2000. He added: "The history of what happened in Northern Ireland would indicate that once the paramilitary group says it is going to do something, it does it."

Republican sources in Belfast also maintained that it was "highly unlikely" that the IRA would give up its arms before the Northern Ireland Assembly meets in September to

BY KIM SENGUPTA  
begin selecting a 10 strong executive.

The Orange Order lodge in Portadown said yesterday that it would hold a rally in the town tonight in an attempt to boost the flagging Drumcree protest. Just a handful of Orangemen have been allowed to return to the fields outside the

## Mother's tribute to firebomb sons

THE MOTHER of the three brothers who died when their Northern Ireland home was firebombed yesterday spoke tearfully of the boys who everybody liked. In her first television interview since the tragedy, which claimed the lives of Richard, 11, Mark, 10, and Jason, eight, Chrisiss Quinn said: "They were just boys, they were into everything, but everybody liked them."

Mrs Quinn, 29, a Roman Catholic, who has a surviving son, Lee, 13, said she felt guilty that she had not moved her family away from the mainly Protestant estate where they lived. They had fled the Troubles to England once, but moved back because the boys - deliberately not brought up as Catholics - wanted to be with their friends, she said in the GMTV interview to be broadcast this morning.

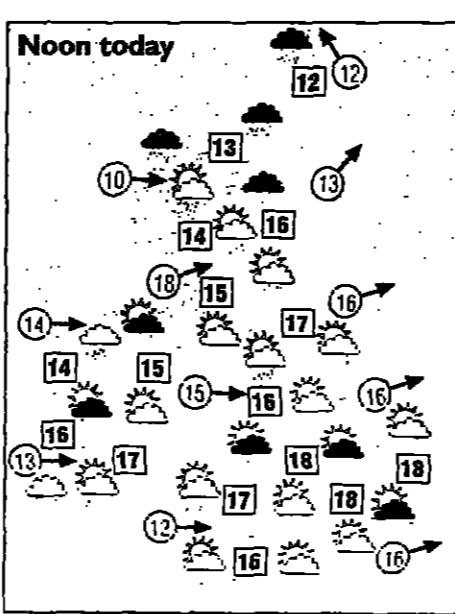
Orangemen from across the province have been invited to the rally. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has yet to grant permission for the demonstration. Privately, some senior Orangemen admit there is little appetite for further confrontation following the murders of the three young Catholic brothers in a sectarian attack, and also the tough line taken by the security forces.

Detectives investigating the murders of brothers Jason, Mark and Richard Quinn made two further arrests yesterday. This brings the numbers being questioned to three; a fourth man has been released.

President Clinton has sent a letter to the mother of the three young Catholic brothers, the victims of sectarian murder, to express his condolences and state he will "redouble" his efforts to find peace in Northern Ireland.

The letter said: "I know that it is impossible to make sense of this senseless act or to soothe with words the loss of your sons but I want you to know that peace-loving people everywhere, here in America and around the world, mourn your loss, share your grief."

## BRITAIN TODAY



SCOTLAND will start cloudy with the remains of some overnight rain. This may linger across the far north-east, but elsewhere it will brighten up for a time, before showers spread from the west later on. Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and heavy showers, perhaps with local thunder this afternoon. England and Wales will be unsettled with showers moving east this morning, but it should become drier and brighter this afternoon with fewer showers and better sunny spells.

## NEXT FEW DAYS

TOMORROW will see patchy rain and a cold wind across Scotland, especially in the north. Northern Ireland and northern England may also have showers at first, but sunnier later. Wales and the rest of England will be bright, but rain will reach the south-west later in the day. On Sunday, rain will move north across England and Wales, later reaching Scotland and Northern Ireland. Northern Scotland should be dry and bright.

## LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	21.49	to	05.11
Birmingham	21.21	to	05.06
Bristol	21.19	to	05.14
Glasgow	21.50	to	04.57
London	21.10	to	05.04
Manchester	21.28	to	05.03
Newcastle	21.34	to	04.52

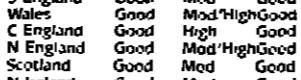
## HIGH TIDES

London	09.18	6.5	20.31	6.5
Liverpool	08.56	8.6	18.13	8.1
Aberdeen	01.17	11.7	13.44	11.2
Hull (East Coast)	12.55	8.0	12.55	8.0
Greenock	06.50	3.4	19.26	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	06.05	3.3	19.00	3.6

## OUTLOOK

Sun rises	05.03
Sun sets	21.10
Moon rises	00.41
Moon sets	14.32
New moon	July 23

## SUN &amp; MOON



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## AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings

London	Mod	Pollen	O <sub>3</sub>
S England	Good	Mod	Good
Wales	Good	Mod	High/Good
C England	Mod	Mod	Good
Scotland	Good	Mod	High/Good
N Ireland	Good	Mod	Good

## AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings

London	Mod	Pollen	O <sub>3</sub>
S England	Good	Mod	Good
Wales	Good	Mod	Good
C England	Good	Mod	Good
Scotland	Good	Mod	Good
N Ireland	Good	Mod	Good

# Teacher wins £100,000 for claim that headmistress bullied him

By JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

A TEACHER who had to give up his career after he allegedly suffered bullying by a headteacher, has won more than £100,000 in damages. The case brought by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, is thought to be the first won by a teacher claiming compensation for stress.

Both the local authority, the former Dyfed County Council, and the head strenuously deny the allegations. Anthony Ratcliffe, 48, received the out-of-court settlement after he had a mental breakdown while deputy head at Sageson County Primary School in Carew, near Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

He said yesterday that one of the most upsetting incidents occurred at the end of his first term when the head, Joan Morris, asked him to present a wrapped parcel to a 70-year-old retired woman teacher at a lunchtime Christmas party. When the parcel was opened in front of other members of staff it turned out to contain a six-inch chocolate penis.

"I had no idea what was in the package," he said. "When it was opened everyone was embarrassed and horrified. It was a most humiliating episode. I felt I was being targeted."

The case is one of several throughout the country being pursued by the union in which teachers say they have been bullied by heads. Most concern female heads and male teachers.

Mr Ratcliffe, who is now working as a kitchen fitter, said that his problems began as soon as he arrived at the 101-pupil school in September 1991. Mrs Morris, whom he described as "slim and attractive", would not give him the keys to the school and objected to him using his wife as an unpaid helper to put up displays.

He and Mrs Morris were never on first name terms. On the day of the Christmas party, he said that he brought a bottle of wine into school for Mrs Morris. She later produced it



Anthony Ratcliffe and his wife Joan enter a press conference in central London, after workplace 'bullying' settlement Andrew Buurman

re-labelled "Randy Brandy".

Susan Wilde of Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, the solicitors who represented him, said some of the problems might have arisen because Mr Ratcliffe, who moved to Pembrokeshire from England, was regarded as an outsider. Mrs Morris, who is still in post, has remained at the school for much of her career.

Miss Wilde said that allegations against bullying heads were not confined to small

rural schools. She is dealing with another case in which a female head of a large comprehensive is accused of bullying a male member of staff.

Mr Ratcliffe, who had taught for 22 years and said that he had no previous problems with mental illness or bullying, had a minor breakdown in October 1992. When he recovered, the former Dyfed County Council was unable to find him another job so he returned to Sageson in July 1993. The situation

did not improve and he had another breakdown in January 1994. He tried teaching once more at another school but had to retire because of ill-health in April 1995. He said:

"Teaching is something I have wanted to do since I was a young child. All things being equal I would still have been there. The experience has destroyed a lot of my confidence and self-esteem and we are still suffering financial insecurity." His kitchen-fitting busi-

ness has just broken even for the first time.

Councillor Norman Parry, the school's vice-chairman of governors, said: "Sageson school is a happy, successful, caring school. I have nothing but complete confidence in the headteacher, management and staff. None of these allegations has ever been proved and the allegations have been refuted all along."

A statement from Pembrokeshire County Council, a

new unitary authority, said the former Dyfed County Council "has not accepted the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe and the proceedings have been strenuously resisted. The insurers and Mr Ratcliffe have, however, agreed to settle the case without the necessity of proceeding to a court hearing. Such an agreement does not alter the position in that the council continues to reject the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe".

## It may be 50 years old, but it's still groovy

By DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE LATEST Chart Information Network figures reveal that last week more than 12,000 vinyl LPs were bought in Britain. Digital compact cassettes, one of the much heralded new formats expected to replace the old-fashioned record, sold only two copies.

Vinyl celebrates its 50th anniversary this week and is staging yet another comeback.

It was half a century ago that Columbia Records brought their dealers and distributors together in Atlantic City and stunned them with the new invention, the room breaking into applause at the recording of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

Fifty years on, vinyl does not, and will never again, compete with CD sales: 12-inch singles have a 5 per cent market share and albums only 0.6 per cent. Nevertheless, the old fashioned record now has three niche markets: collectors in love with the look, shape and accompanying sleeve; classical music aficionados who maintain the sound reproduction on pristine vinyl is better than on compact disc; and club where the DJs still use turntables.

James Jolly, editor of



Vinyl records have become collectors' items, and are preferred by club DJs Nicola Kurtz

Gramophone Magazine, said: "Every time I listen to an LP I'm staggered at how good they sound. We have all been slightly brainwashed into thinking that CD is superior. But CD was launched very much for classical music and there are very few LPs out there now."

However, one record company, Testament, is cashing in on the interest in vinyl by reissuing famous classical record albums licensed from EMI. Stewart Brown of Testament said: "I'm putting the master tapes onto vinyl because there

"play" and the first note is enough to kill any chance of dropping a beat in exactly the right place.

The key to dancefloor success is the turntable "pitch control" slider. Since mixing involves making seamless transitions from one record to another, the ability to make subtle adjustments to match the speed of two tunes is vital. On a CD player, the pace has been digitally "set".

Phil Barton, who works at Sister Ray, a record shop in Soho in central London, said: "There are plenty of people who will only buy a CD as a last resort."

"We have people who order records from other countries in Europe and from South America where it is very difficult to buy vinyl."

"A lot of record companies release seven-inches because they see a collectors' market which is still there. It gives the record an aura of collectability."

According to rock author John Robertson: "The industry has done its best to sink vinyl as a medium for new releases, so collectors have turned it into an art form. The 12-inch LP sleeve gave you an image of the artist and their work. With CDs, nobody can remember what the cover looks like."

### THE INSIDE TRACK ON VINYL

THE first vinyl record was a recording in 1948 of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

Vinyl has a 2-per-cent share of the market. Albums have 0.6 per cent, but 12-in singles have 5.5 per cent and rising.

In 1994 vinyl was going through a high-street cred phase. And rock band Pearl Jam's release of that year

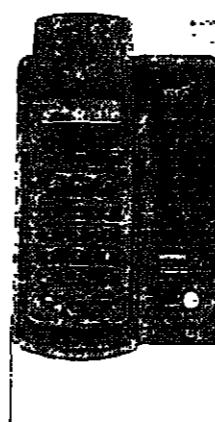
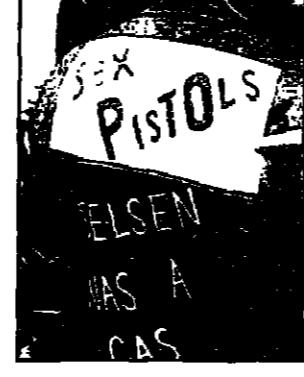
was initially only available on vinyl.

Record collector Jim Sheppard, from Kidderminster, has vinyl recordings of every Not hit since 1952 — except The Teletubbies, who were only released on CD.

Collectors now pay amazing prices for rare vinyl. The Sex Pistols' single "God Save the Queen" on the A&M label is

valued by collectors at £2,500. All but 100 copies were destroyed when the band parted from the record label 24 hours after copies were pressed.

In Japanese discos, vinyl is ultra-trendy. Japan's best-known DJ, Krush, gently warms his records before putting them on the turntable to improve the sound still further.



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Holiday nightmare: British couple receiving counselling after sex attack by gunman

# Florida rape suspect held

BY LOUISE JURY

A 39-YEAR-OLD man was arrested yesterday after a British couple were subjected to a brutal sex attack on the first day of a holiday in Florida.

Police had warned they feared the rapist could kill next time if he was not caught. Kenneth David Taylor was arrested on warrant early yesterday, and was expected to appear in court on charges of armed sexual battery, false imprisonment and armed robbery.

The British victims, who were not named, were attacked soon after they arrived at the La Suite hotel in Kissimmee on Monday. The couple, who were in their 20s and from the Greater London area, had left their hotel door open as they waited for a clothes iron to be brought to their room.

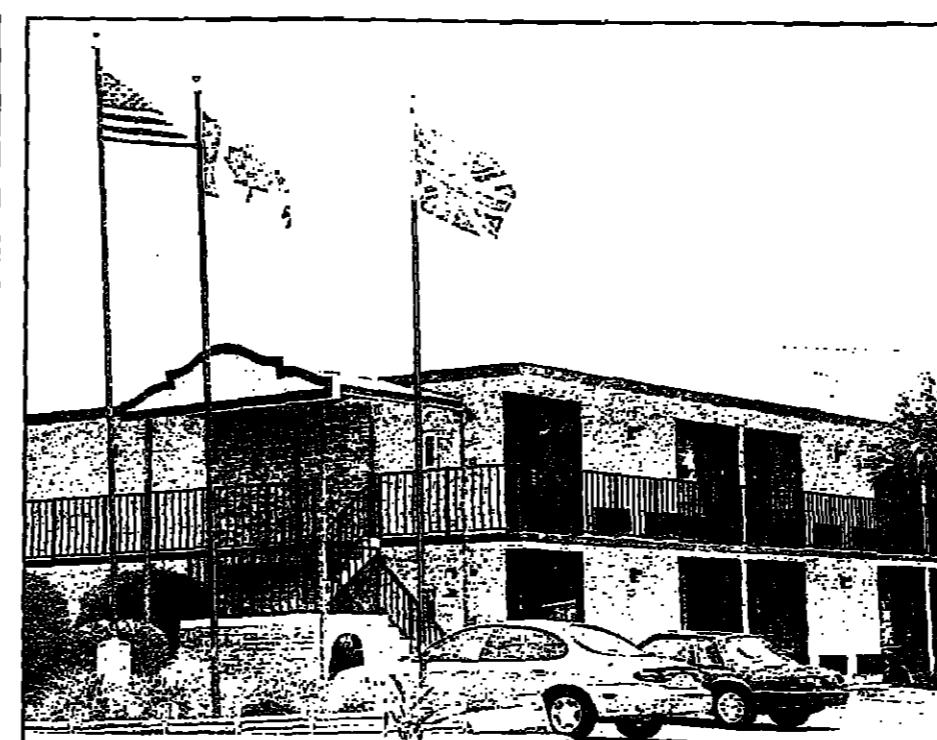
Detective John Lewis, of Kissimmee police, said: "A black male who had a gun, pushed open the door, demanded their money and ordered them both to strip and lie on the bed. The intruder forced them to perform sex acts on each other before locking the bathroom and raping the woman. It was a very nasty attack which left them both very shocked. The woman was taken to hospital, but neither was seriously injured."

The couple were asked to stay at another hotel in the Orlando area, to help the police investigation and have decided to finish their two-week holiday.

Kenneth Taylor, from Or-



Police sketch (above) that led to yesterday's arrest. Right: La Suite hotel in Kissimmee where the British couple were attacked. Reuters



lando, was arrested at 7am local time yesterday after a hunt by detectives. Police said he was identified by one of the victims in a photograph line-up two days ago and a warrant was obtained within 24 hours.

Officers were initially unable to find him and took the unusual step of indicating they would name him if they could not find him by the weekend.

Taylor was also being questioned yesterday about a string of other attacks in the central

Florida area. Similarities between the attacks were not apparent until the assailant struck on Monday, only two days after a Massachusetts couple were accosted at the Park Inn International in Kissimmee.

Again the woman was raped. The two hotels are about three miles apart on the same tourist strip east of Disney World.

A Foreign Office spokesman said they had no details of the British couple as police were not co-operating with the

British consul. The Foreign Office was hoping to obtain information on the case to check whether the holidaymakers wanted any additional help.

The British couple are being attended by a "victim advocate" arranged by the Florida police, but the Foreign Office said additional counselling would be arranged if necessary.

The spokesman said they could not decide whether to amend official advice to travellers until they received full de-

tails of the Kissimmee incident. Florida is currently the only region of the United States with specific warnings from the Foreign Office about tourists being targeted for crime. The advice warns visitors to be vigilant about personal security, and to avoid wearing ostentatious jewellery and walking in rundown areas.

It also warns drivers of hire cars against stopping immediately if their vehicle is shunted from behind, and advises continuing to the nearest public area before doing so. Sleeping in vehicles is also unwise, the guidance says.

There was reassurance, however, from a British consular official in Miami, who said yesterday: "Given the number of Brits who come here, the chances of being attacked are minuscule. Especially if you take reasonable security measures. This is still one of the safest places in the world to come."

# Ashdown call for European Bill of Rights angers Tories

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday sparked a row with Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, after sounding a Euro-sceptic note about the powers of Brussels.

Echoing Tony Blair's call for a "third way" on European economic and monetary union, the Liberal Democrat leader angered the Tories by calling for a European constitution to guard against "the creeping accumulation of powers by the centre".

"Let the mechanisms be left to the governments, but let the priorities be set by the people," he says.

He warned that his enthusiasm for Europe did not extend

nation states and the EU, guaranteeing the greatest possible decentralisation of power.

Plans to enlarge the EU to include the new eastern democracies made this the perfect time to draw up a constitution, he said.

"We have a unique opportunity to formulate a constitution from the bottom up - from the views and the arguments and the representations of the people of Europe."

"Let the mechanisms be left to the governments, but let the priorities be set by the people," he says.

Mr Ashdown's speech was designed to re-position the Liberal Democrats well before next year's European elections by taming down their image as uncritical Europhiles.

Senior sources close to Mr

Ashdown denied it also marked a step closer towards coalition with the Government by pointing out that, unlike Labour, the Liberal Democrats are committed to Britain's entry to the European single currency.

But the shift was condemned by Mr Howard, a Eurosceptic and the Tory spokesman on Foreign Affairs, who accused Mr Ashdown of "breath-taking hypocrisy".

"After years of calling for more European integration and a transfer of powers away from the nation state, the Liberal Democrats' hypocrisy is breath-taking."

He added: "Now Mr Ashdown attacks the very accumulation of powers to Europe which he has spent his life promoting. The truth is that today's speech represents little more than empty rhetoric."

Mr Ashdown fired off a rebuttal at Mr Howard. "As usual, you have gone off half-cocked," he wrote to the former Home Secretary. "You clearly haven't bothered to read my speech before attacking it."

In his speech to the Centre for European Reform, Mr Ashdown said a European constitution would clarify the relationship between regions,

to its institutions which "hardly anyone understands, let alone gains access to".

He praised the plans to enlarge the EU, but warned that there must be reform.

Mr Ashdown declared: "I believe the time has come for us to take the principles and the structure of the EU and set them out in a constitution for Europe."

An EU constitution would set out the powers of all EU institutions and increase "transparency and accountability to the people of Europe by clarifying European law in an accessible and readable document".

It would guard against "the creeping accumulation of powers by the centre, making clear what powers and functions reside at what level".

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# Girls as likely to truant as boys

GIRLS ARE just as likely to play truant or leave school with no qualifications as boys, according to a report published yesterday.

They are being left behind by the drive to improve education for the boys who make up the hard core of persistent truants and children expelled from school, said research by the left-of-centre Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank.

The report, "Wasted Youth", says truancy and under-performance are problems for all pupils, and calls for action to tackle the "long tail of under-achievement". David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, has promised to cut expulsions and truancy by a third. Estimates suggest up to 80,000 young people play truant.

Josh Hillman, the report's co-author, criticised government initiatives for focusing on the small minority of boys who pose the most acute problems of extreme bad behaviour and truancy and are by far the most likely to be expelled. "At the moment policy is concentrating very much at the extreme end of disaffection. We are looking very hard at those young people who are being excluded from school

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

and those truanting regularly.

"We are missing quite large numbers of young people who perhaps are not constantly out of school, but are playing truant occasionally and are disaffected and leaving with few or no qualifications."

Boys make up 83 per cent of the 12,700 pupils permanently excluded from school. Exam results tell a different story. While girls easily out-

perform boys in top-graded GCSE results, 15 per cent of girls leave school without passing a GCSE in the core subjects of maths, English and science, compared to 19 per cent of boys.

The report said: "There is a common perception that there is an achievement gap between boys and girls in compulsory education. In fact, at the lowest levels of attainment, gender performance differences are not that great. These figures suggest that policies for tackling under-achievement should not be

driven by stereotypes of disaffection, which portray only boys as failing or being failed." Mr Hillman said the Government needed to act more quickly to reform the curriculum to promote work-related courses for the over-14s.

Proposals by the Prime Minister's Social Exclusion Unit earlier this year concentrate on cutting expulsion rates, which have soared to record levels in recent years. Ministers want all pupils permanently excluded from school to have the right to full-time education, and set school-by-school targets for school expulsions.

John Findlay, national officer for social services at the Unison public-service union, which represents truancy officers, said there were many misconceptions about truancy.

"Our people would say there are at least as many girls as boys truanting, if not more, and it's good this is being brought out.

"Truancy is a function of social exclusion or deprivation in the main. It comes from backgrounds, parenting problems or family problems and so on. Truancy is most connected with disaffection and it does not affect one gender more than another."

## THE MISSING GENERATION

- About a million children every year - 15 per cent - take at least half a day off school without permission, according to official figures.
- A Home Office study found 37 per cent of young men and 28 per cent of young women admitted skipping school.
- Truants in secondary schools take an average of 10 days off a year. The average for primary school truants is five days.
- Some parents condone truancy, or expect their children to look after brothers and sisters during the day.
- One survey found that 44 per cent of truants believed their parents knew they were skipping lessons.
- Most truants say they think lessons are irrelevant or they do not like the teacher. But they often say they are worried about bullying.



The playwright Sir David Hare, whose acting debut will be in his own one-man show

Nigel Parry/Katz

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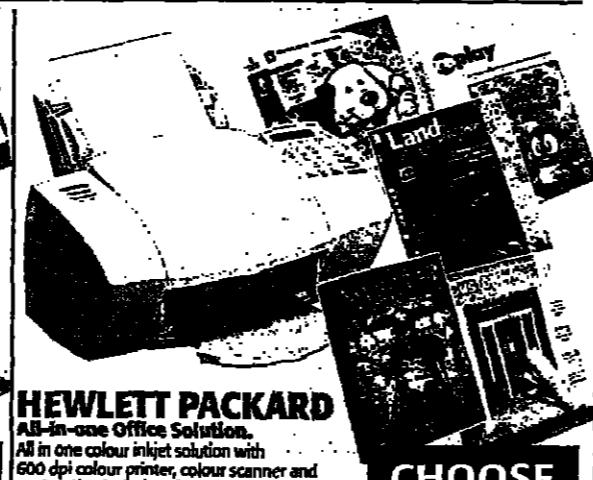
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## Hare makes debut as an actor at 51

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE PLAYWRIGHT Sir David Hare is to make his acting debut at the age of 51, in a one-man show. He will play himself, in a new play by himself, under-standing to be party about himself.

Though it is a one-man performance, the new play has a glittering support team. It will be directed by Stephen Daldry, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, and designed by the award-winning set designer Ian MacNeil. The play will be staged by the Royal Court at the Duke of York's Theatre in London's West End in September.

Royal Court sources said they were sworn to secrecy about the exact content of Hare's new work, which is entitled *Via Dolorosa*. But it is understood to emanate from a three-week trip Sir David made to Israel with Stephen Daldry.

"It's true that he has never acted professionally before. But both he and Stephen thought this was a perfect work for his debut."

The resulting play offers a meditation on the trip, which, according to the Royal Court, "leaves the author questioning

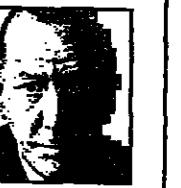
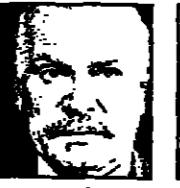
his own values as searching as the powerful beliefs of those he met".

A friend of Sir David who had read the play said yesterday: "This play is absolutely about him and his convictions. And he felt that no one else would be able to speak those convictions in the same way as he would. It is a very personal work, quite an austere work, and one that will arouse a lot of comment."

To contrast with the austerity, at the same time as Sir David opens in his own play his adaptation of Schnitzler's *La Ronde* will open down the road at the Donmar Warehouse, starring the Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman.

His previous plays include the multi-award winning *Amy's View*, with Dame Judi Dench, and *The Absence of War*, about Labour's failed 1992 election campaign.

## ACTOR-DIRECTORS OF STAGE AND SCREEN



Quentin Tarantino  
The film director and screenwriter was panned by critics for his portrayal of Harry Roat in the new Broadway production of *War and Dark*.

Harold Pinter  
The playwright recently delighted audiences at the Donmar Warehouse in London, with his portrayal of Harry in his own play *The Collection*.

Laurence Olivier  
Directed and acted most of his career. When he directed the film of *Henry V* he asked the extra to do dangerous stunts. They asked him as fellow actor to do them first.

Alfred Hitchcock  
Spotting the Hitchcock memo became part of seeing his films. He had the first of many walk-ons parts in his own films in the silent thriller *The Lodger* (1926).

Noel Coward  
The ultimate playwright-actor - a singer and dancer too - he would have been shocked by Hare's bashfulness in coming so long to come forward.

## Ruling boosts awards for accident victims

A LANDMARK ruling by five law lords yesterday will mean large increases in compensation awards made to personal injury victims.

The verdict, which will increase awards by around one third, was heralded by lawyers as being "of profound importance for accident victims".

But the insurance industry said it would lead to increased premiums for motorists and employers.

The ruling followed the acceptance by the law lords of arguments that accident victims should not have to risk investing their awards in equities and gilts, which are more volatile. Instead they should be allowed to put their money into more stable index-linked Government securities.

As a consequence the victims could only be expected to earn 3 per cent interest rather than the 4 to 5 per cent expected return from equities and gilts. To compensate for the

lower expected return, the lump sum awards should be increased, so that injury victims can be guaranteed a lasting income, the law lords agreed.

The ruling meant that victims in three test cases had their compensation awards drastically increased. Steel worker Kelvin Page, 31, had his damages for brain damage increased from £700,000 to £1m. He had taken an action against his employer Sheerness Steel after a red hot iron bar sprang from a cooling bed and became impaled in his head. Thelma Wells, 62, who suffered a brain injury in a head-on car crash will have her award increased by £332,000 to £1.6m.

James Thomas, a seven-year-old who suffered cerebral palsy at birth due to a hospital error, had his award of £1,285,000 against Brighton Health Authority increased by about £300,000. The larger amounts had originally been awarded to the three victims by High Court judges but the Court of Appeal ruled in October 1996 that their generous approach had been unlawful.

Yesterday's ruling by the High Court judges will affect hundreds of outstanding cases and all future personal injury awards. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board said the ruling would have implications for crime victims who suffered loss of income or needed future medical care as a result of their injuries. Peter Spurgeon, the director, said the Home Office and Treasury, which pay for the scheme, would have to consider providing extra funds.

Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, whose members face paying out millions more to personal injury victims, said he was "disappointed" by the House of Lords ruling.

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It was the day of judgment for the dome as the first group of teenagers to see inside, the UK Millennium Youth Council, give their opinions on the show so far

David Rose

## Teenagers cast as official critics of Dome

JAMES WRIGHT pushed his hard hat back on his head and gazed with awe at the roof of the Millennium Dome.

"It's massive," he breathed. "And to think that we are the first teenagers in the world ever to be inside."

James, 19, is the leader of the UK Millennium Youth Council, a group of 16 teenagers from all over the country, who met for the first time yesterday. A sort of junior focus group, they will give their views on the exhibitions inside the dome and will be consulted at regular intervals between now and 2000.

More than 3 million young people are expected to visit the dome when it opens and their approval is seen as vital to its success. But the board of the New Millennium Experience Company, which includes Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4, need have no fears. As the teenagers spilled out of the coach brandishing their cameras, most were agreed that the noisy building site, which will become the

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

focus of the Millennium celebrations, was impressive.

They were even more impressed to find a group of adults hanging onto their every word and seeking their opinion.

Snapping shut his mobile phone and assuming a businesslike air, James said the council's role was to provide "constructive criticism" and come up with ideas for what they would like to see inside the dome. "At the moment it is all very conceptual but we have been given a fantastic opportunity to have a say and for once young people are not being patronised in the classroom. At last the kids are being listened to and I would like to see young people setting the agenda for once."

Most of them had given serious thought about what they would like to see inside the massive construction which covers 20 acres and will comfortably hold two Wembley stadiums.

"There should be something musical," said Indira Mwale, 15, from Huddersfield, who sings in

a rhythm and blues band. "Most children learn an instrument at some stage in their lives and music is a good way to reach out to people."

But she was less interested in the giant statue of the body which visitors will be able to climb into.

"I've done all that biology at

school so I don't need to learn about it any more," she said.

Stephen James, from Rutland, was more concerned about who the body was supposed to represent.

"There should definitely be more sport in the dome and something to do with football - in fact that body should be a

massive Alan Shearer. That would be great," he said.

But it was 14-year-old Alan Flanders, from Liverpool, who voiced the concerns of most of the country when he raised the question of cost. So far the price has not been fixed although it is expected to be around £20. "The dome should

be free for children," he declared.

The eldest of five children, Adam said he felt it was only right to try and attract as many young people as possible.

Claire Davis, who regularly travels past the site, agreed that the proposed entrance fee was too expensive.

"We are the next generation and it is our dome but young people will not come if it is that expensive. I live in Greenwich and there is no way I'm spending that much money every time I want to come."

"No-one can afford that and if it costs that much then no-one will bother."

Like the others, Claire wanted to see a sporting area and a zone representing different multi-racial ideas.

"It is crucial that they listen to us because we are the youth and we must have a say. Everyone else on the board is well over 40 and they have no idea what we want."

## Pay-out hopes for 'forgotten' Nazi victims

BY LOUISE JURY

A FORGOTTEN group of victims of the Nazis intends to apply for help from the fund established by the British government this week.

Former political prisoners of the concentration camps, who are not Jewish, hope to benefit from part of the £1m pay-out.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews announced on Wednesday how the £1m gift from the Foreign Office to victims of the Holocaust is to be distributed.

Two-thirds of the money is to go to Jews in Eastern Europe who have received little support. The remaining third is to be handed out in Britain.

Although around 500 need Jews will be the main beneficiaries, the organisers are encouraging applications from other victims, such as the Romanies.

The Association of Former Political Prisoners of German Jails and Concentration Camps in Britain hopes its poorest members will apply. From a list of 1,400 in the years after the war the association believes 120 survive, of whom perhaps 50 are in need.

Zbigniew Ogrodzinski, the secretary, said: "Of course they are not starving or anything like that because we're living in a social state. But many of them are poor people."

Some received a very small pension from Germany after

the war if they could prove that their health was damaged by their incarceration. But many received no compensation for their ordeal.

The story of Mr Ogrodzinski, 78, is typical of his association's members, who were either members of the intelligentsia or of the underground resistance.

Mr Ogrodzinski, now of west London, was arrested with his parents at the beginning of the war when he was 17 because his father was a university professor.

"The Germans had to eliminate all the Polish leaders, all the intelligentsia, then they felt at ease to eliminate the Jews because there was no opposition," he said.

His parents were jailed. He spent the war in the Sachsenhausen and Gusen concentration camps in Germany and the Mauthausen camp in Austria. "I survived because I spoke German fluently and I got the position of translator," he said.

After the war, he returned to Communist-controlled Warsaw, but eventually escaped to England in 1953. "I feel that I'm forgotten and that a lot of our people are forgotten," he said.

Charles Rommer, the association's international relations officer, was a member of the Polish resistance who was sent to concentration camps. He said he knew no one who had received any compensation.

## Tory MP fined £1,000

A SHADOW cabinet member was yesterday fined £1,000 for breaking Law Society rules.

Gary Streeter, the Conservative spokesman for internal development and MP for Devon South West, admitted "conduct unbecoming a solicitor".

The case arose from events when he was acting as a solicitor on behalf of two companies undergoing a merger. The 42-year-old MP admitted that "he accepted instructions to act for a client whose interests conflicted or appeared likely to conflict with those of other clients for whom he acted".

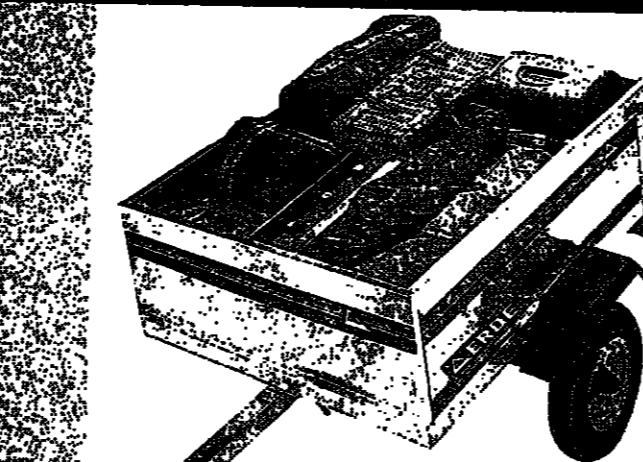
Roger Field, acting for the Law Society, told a Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal: "It was a conflict of interest *par excellence*." Mr Streeter at the time was working as a solicitor with

the Plymouth-based firm, Foot Bowden. He advised two companies - MGC Technical Services Ltd, owned by David and Lynda Moss, and Ivens Electronics Ltd, owned by Trevor and Jane Ivens. The companies had in 1991 decided to merge as Ridgewood Industries Ltd.

The hearing heard that Mr Streeter, by acting for the two firms, put himself in an impossible situation. But the three-man panel was told the clients had not been prejudiced by his actions, and Mr Field said: "There is ... nothing to suggest [Mr Streeter's] integrity is in question."

After the hearing, Mr Streeter said: "The chairman said it was a technical infringement of Law Society rules and I accept the consequences of the judgement I made in 1991."

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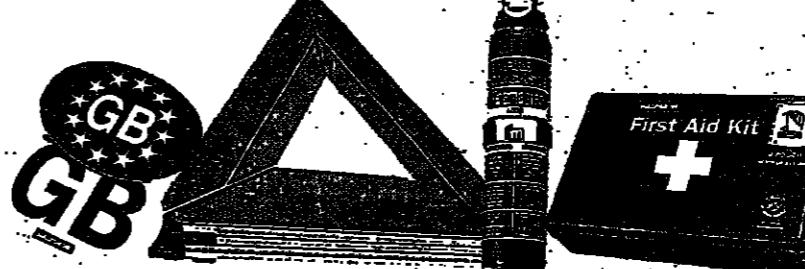


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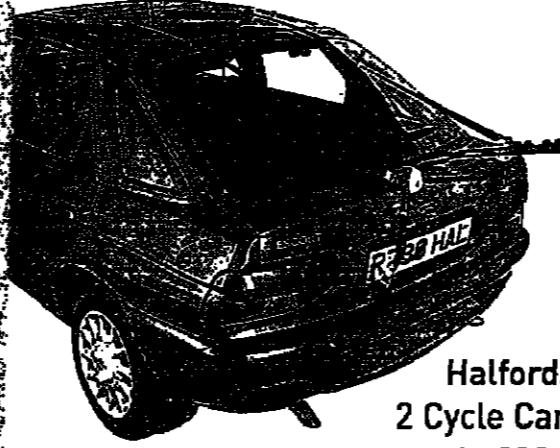
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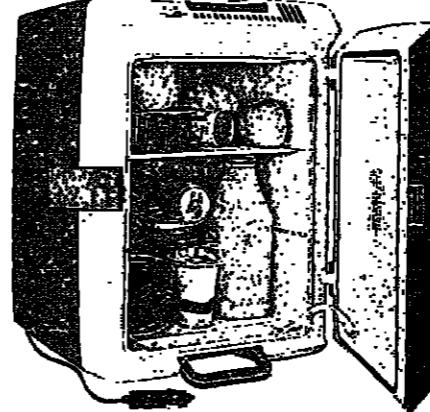


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# Tricks of the trade that ensured Houdini's great escape

THE GREAT Houdini of British politics, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, scammed away with a cheeky grin to the cabinet meeting yesterday after appearing before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Mr Cook said afterwards: "I'm a free man. I've been acquitted and I'm free to go to Cabinet."

In fact, the jury is still out and the committee has yet to report but certainly Mr Cook had no difficulty in speaking at length about nothing in particular and spinning out the time. He was aided and abetted by committee member, Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) who wished to be regarded as awkward, but whose services would have been re-

warded, if he was a backbencher in the last Tory government, with a knighthood or junior ministerial office.

The committee met at 9am, with the chairman Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea East) reminding members that Mr Cook had to leave by 10.15 to attend the weekly cabinet meeting.

The subject for original discussion was supposed to be the public expenditure plans of the Foreign Office, but it had been agreed that Mr Cook would also be asked about the Sierra Leone affair. Mr Anderson called Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock & Inverclyde) rather than the troublesome Tory, Sir

John Stanley (C, Tonbridge & Malling), who would have ensured that the discussion on Sierra Leone came before the public expenditure issues.

So the stage was set for Mr Godman and Mr Ross to perform the oldest tricks in the parliamentary book: delay and diversion. They asked perfectly legitimate questions on a variety of issues relating to Foreign Office budgets and nothing on Sierra Leone. My suspicions were aroused when Mr Godman launched into a detailed cross-examination about the resourcing of our posts in the Caspian Basin. The Foreign Secretary's eyes twinkled and he just managed to stop

an Basin and that we needed more staff.

Mr Godman then opened up a blind alley for a similarly lengthy discourse on the cost of removing the Moscow Embassy, followed by Mr Ross who asked demanding questions on the BBC World Service and the funding of the British Council, which were answered comprehensively by Mr Cook.

Twenty one minutes elapsed before we even had mention of Sierra Leone, which was finally raised when the chairman called the first Tory, senior bigwig Sir Peter Emery (C, East Devon). He asked an impudent, grand and pompous question about "Sir John Legg" - he

meant the Permanent Secretary Sir John Kerr, who did Mr Cook's dirty work at the last committee session. The Foreign Secretary played his card marked "battery", reserved for Tory grandees. "Thank you for your gracious welcome, Sir Peter." There was then a gentle discourse on parliamentary accountability and a reminder that the Commons passed a motion, last week, saying that the internal inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg should not be prejudiced by the select committee.

Only when Sir John Stanley was called did the sparks really start flying but Mr Cook was not involved. Mr Ross had been threatening to object to Sir Peter's line of ques-

tioning but he waited to play this joker until Sir John spoke - "I wish to officially object to this line of questioning".

Under the rules, if a member plays this card the committee must go into private session. The press, public and witnesses are ejected, the committee argues barges on, whether the question can be asked, thus ensuring 15 minutes of filibustering time.

Finally we were all summoned to return and the farce continued for a further 20 minutes until the public session ended. Sir John asked a tricky question or two but Mr Cook was unfazed. He lives to fight another day.

## Same old plot at the opera house

ARTS  
BY ANTHONY BARNES

THERE WAS "little public evidence" of changes at the top of the Royal Opera House, Sir Richard Eyre told a Commons committee yesterday.

And he said that in a worst-case scenario - one he did not explore in his own damning report on the body - without improvement it should be closed down and rebuilt from scratch.

He was giving evidence to the Culture Select Committee after publication of his report into the future of ballet and opera in London published two weeks ago and highly critical of leadership at the ROH.

It followed the committee's own dismissive examination of the Opera House seven months ago which prompted the departure of the Royal Opera House board.

Since then there have been fresh appointments to the board, headed by Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI.

But Sir Richard said yesterday: "It's too early to make a judgement on the conduct of the new board except that we have little public evidence of improvement - and we have some signs of business as usual."

He was referring to a leaked letter asking for more public funding without detailed costings and a statement from a leading figure at the opera house which referred to the educational aspect of the Royal Opera House as a "marginal activity". The committee chairman, Gerald Kaufman, said that, judging by the tone of Sir Richard's report and his use of words like "arrogance" and "débâcle", "surely there's a question whether they have learned any lessons" between publication of the two reports.

Sir Richard replied: "I would certainly infer that conclusion myself." But he steered clear of saying whether the management could be trusted.

In the report he criticised the board's lack of a submitted business plan for the Covent Garden theatre, which is being reconstructed with £78.5m of lottery cash.

Yesterday he said any claims for an increase in grant from the board would need to be accompanied by a properly costed business plan.



Frank Dobson talking to nurses Jo Hourihan (left) and Debbie Easto during his visit to St Bartholomew's Hospital in London yesterday

Michael Stephens

## Dobson pledges on NHS fees

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, yesterday announced that no new National Health Service charges would be introduced by the Government in the lifetime of this Parliament. But the Conservatives rejected his cash bonus as a "dodgy accountancy scam".

Mr Dobson told MPs in a statement that, he "utterly rejected" any arguments for charging, saying charges would be expensive to collect and "would deny treatment to those who need it most."

His statement rules out the introduction of charges to visit the GR "hotel" bed and breakfast charges for staying in hos-

ITALY  
By DAISY SAMPSON

pital, and new charges for vaccinations for holidaymakers, which had been considered in a year-long review.

He said 7,000 doctors and 15,000 nurses would be employed over the next three years and that NHS hospitals would treat an extra 3 million patients.

Following the Chancellor's £21bn gift to the health service, announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review on Tuesday, Mr Dobson elaborated on how that money would be spent.

"What this all amounts to is

the biggest health crusade the country has seen since the NHS was born 50 years ago," he told the Commons.

But Mr Dobson made it clear what the Government would expect the NHS to modernise in return for the extra investment.

He said: "This money will be strictly targeted on helping NHS staff to transform the NHS into the kind of service both they and we want to see - a service that is fast and convenient, with uniformly high standards."

Mr Dobson also promised NHS staff fair and affordable pay rises and announced that

the pay review bodies would take into account the Government's inflation target, as well as the need to improve services and recruit and retain staff.

"There should be no more systematic use of short-term contracts for nurses and other staff," he promised to Labour cheers.

Ann Widdecombe, the Tories' health spokeswoman, accused Mr Dobson of creative accounting, saying his £18bn extra for the NHS in England was in fact just £2bn in additional funds and was not, as he has said, the largest increase in funds the NHS has ever had.

She said: "I must say that

Dartford, a GP and joint chairman of the all-party group on primary care asked whether the modernisation fund of £5bn would be delivered to improve GP practices.

"It will be channelled to those areas where people say they need the money," said Mr Dobson, who also held out the hope that in the future he could avoid staging pay awards for nurses and doctors, if the pay review bodies apply in their terms of reference by the Treasury.

Gordon Prentice (Lab, Pendle) told the Commons that his constituency was a dental desert and that dental surgeries are advertising in Scandinavia for additional dentists.

Dr Howard Stoate (Lab,

## System lets down children in care

EDUCATION  
BY JOHN DEANE

CHILDREN IN care suffer from a "scandalous" lack of educational support and opportunities, an influential Commons committee said yesterday.

The Health Select Committee found that some strong-willed and talented individuals survived the care system and did well in later life, but the odds were stacked against the majority.

The committee cited a series of "horrendous" statistics relating to the 51,000 odd children looked after by local authorities in England.

Between 50 per cent and 75 per cent of care leavers left school with no formal qualifications compared with only 6 per cent of the general population, and between only 12 per cent and 19 per cent went on to further education compared with 68 per cent generally.

The committee also noted that between 50 per cent and 80 per cent of care leavers were unemployed; 38 per cent of young prisoners have been in care; and 30 per cent of young, single homeless people have been in care.

The MPs recommended that the Government establish the level of funding required to provide adequate family support services. They also said that authorities should tackle the problem of frequent moves between placements.

"Nothing contributes more to low self-esteem and under-achievement on the part of children than the sense that they are uncared-for parcels to be passed from one social worker or foster carer to another," the report said.

The MPs invited the Government's Social Exclusion Unit to investigate issues relating to children in care. They also recommended the establishment of a Cabinet sub-committee to co-ordinate children's interests, and a Children's Rights Commissioner for the UK.

Responding to the report, Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said a national childcare management strategy, to be set out in the autumn, would lay out a range of measures to protect children in care from abuse and neglect.

## Cook fails to clear arms-row officials

THE FOREIGN Secretary was adamant yesterday that ministers were not involved in the Sandline arms-to-Africa affair but failed to fully to exonerate public servants.

Robin Cook said he was confident that no one at the Foreign Office's Africa desk had pursued a policy of military intervention in Sierra Leone to depose the junta, but was unclear whether other officials had adopted such a course of action.

The minister told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons that he had to be sure he could "sustain" his public statements.

It was a "matter of fact" that there had been no minimise-

ARMS TO AFRICA

BY BARBIE CLEMENT

material involvement, and "as far as I'm aware" there was no involvement of public servants.

He said he had interviewed staff in the Africa department, but no one else.

The committee went into private session after Ernie Ross, a Labour member, objected to this line of inquiry, prompted by a question from Sir John Stanley.

David Wilshire, a Conservative member of the committee, accused Mr Cook of pre-empting the Legg Report - an internal inquiry into the affair - by insisting that ministers were not culpable.

The report is due to be published before 28 July, when the Foreign Secretary is due to reappear before the committee.

Sandline International, a firm which supplies military advice and mercenaries, claimed that it had received government approval to supply weapons to forces loyal to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was restored to power after a counter-coup.

As part of a compromise between MPs and the Government, the committee went into a second private session to scrutinise shortened versions of some 190 telegrams which passed between the Foreign Office and Sierra Leone at the time of the affair.

Donald Anderson, the Labour chairman of the committee, said that MPs had made "reasonable progress" yesterday and ventured that it was "unlikely in the extreme" that

three members of the committee are to be allowed access to the complete telegrams and some MPs indicated that they contained suspicious references.

Diana Abbott, a Labour member, said that some of the material would have to be "read carefully and in full".

David Heath, a Liberal Democrat and one of the MPs delegated to see the complete telegrams, said he would be "interested to read the full text" of some of the messages.

Donald Anderson, the Labour chairman of the committee, said that MPs had made "reasonable progress" yesterday and ventured that it was "unlikely in the extreme" that

telegrams had been doctored in any way.

The intervention by Mr Ross and his insistence on questioning the Foreign Secretary about matters other than the Sandline affair was seen as a device to use the limited time available on less controversial issues.

Mr Wilshire accused his Labour colleague of "crude attempts to gag public discussion".

Earlier, Sir Peter Emery, a Conservative, had urged the Foreign Secretary to supply notes of conversations between officials and representatives of Sandline.

Mr Cook said that he would consider applications to see

any documents, but only after Sir Thomas Legg had completed his report into the affair.

The Foreign Secretary said that there was "no prospect" that the notes would reveal Foreign Office support of military intervention in breach of a United Nations arms embargo.

Mr Cook praised Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, for his conduct after the junta took power, but left open the prospect of some criticism.

"Whatever the events of the last few months, nothing can take away from Mr Penfold the fact that he showed immense courage, operating at times in a building which was on fire."

Mr Darling said borrowing would be reduced. Mr Maude countered: "How on earth do you arrive at the conclusion that you are reducing borrowing when your own plans - based on very optimistic assumptions - show borrowing going up every year?"

Mr Darling said: "The Government does believe we should be prepared to borrow when we are

investing but on current expenditure we believe that ought to be covered by taxation."

**Sweet words**

THE TRADE minister Ian McCourt vowed to back chocolate-makers' fight against continental purists who claim that the British version is not the real thing. The industry want to overturn an EU directive that would place an export ban on British chocolate by some European countries.

## Today

■ Commons: Debate on NATO enlargement; adjournment debate on limiting environmental impact of airport (John McDonnell, Lab, Hayes and Harlington).

■ Lords: Landmines Bill, second reading; Waste Minimisation Bill, second reading.

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Pension progress

ONLY THREE out of 41 pensions firms being monitored had resolved less than 50 per cent of cases in the pensions mis-selling affair, Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, said in reply to Stephen Timms (Lab, East Ham).

NO SUITABLE candidate has been found for the post of governor of the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland, despite it having been advertised, Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister of State, told Tony McNulty (Lab, Harrow East).

### Sit. vac. at Maze

NO SUITABLE candidate has been found for the post of governor of the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland, despite it having been advertised, Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister of State, told Tony McNulty (Lab, Harrow East).

# Colleagues force surgeon's suspension

A SENIOR breast surgeon has been suspended and hundreds of patients' records are being reviewed after colleagues raised concerns about his work.

The case is the first to come to public notice after the inquiry into the Bristol heart surgery scandal, which highlighted doctors' responsibilities to protect their patients if they felt colleagues' work was not adequate.

Doctors at Stracathro Hos-

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

pital, Brechin, warned hospital authorities about a month ago about the work of Douglas Irving, consultant general surgeon and medical director of the Angus NHS Trust. Following the alert, Mr Irving was not allowed to perform breast operations and yesterday was suspended from the trust.

Surgeons are reviewing the cases of 150 patients and if there is cause for "significant concern" these patients will be contacted. The trust has also set up a helpline number for former patients who will be offered a clinical review by a breast specialist as soon as possible.

Officials said it was "unlikely" that there would be serious health concerns for former patients - but said that a number did appear to have been "adversely affected".

A spokesman for the trust said: "A preliminary audit of Mr Irving's breast surgery caseload over the last five years has found that guidelines which specify agreed practice in surgery have not been consistently observed.

"The audit has established that the failure to follow surgical guidelines for the investi-

gation and treatment of breast disease may have compromised the treatment and outcomes of a number of present and former patients."

It is believed that Mr Irving did not always carry out mammograms and fine-needle aspirations before breast surgery, as guidelines suggest. These procedures are standard in the diagnosis of breast cancer.

The investigation centres

on patients from Tayside and Grampian treated by Mr Irving for breast disorders since 1993, at Stracathro Hospital. It will also look at his caseload for other types of surgery.

Both Tayside and Grampian Health Boards are taking part in the investigation and the General Medical Council has been informed.

As medical director of the trust, Mr Irving was involved in

both the clinical and management side of surgery.

In the recent GMC inquiry into the Bristol heart surgery scandal it was found that doctors had attempted to blow the whistle on the poor practice of the surgeons involved but had been ignored. Following the case, one of the recommendations made by the Secretary of State for Health was that doctors had a responsibility to pro-

tect patients by reporting colleagues whose performance they believed was inadequate.

"Our overriding concern is for the welfare of Mr Irving's patients," said Ron McLeod, acting chief executive of Angus NHS Trust. "I would ask anyone who is concerned to contact the telephone helpline via which we can provide them with expert advice and support."

■ Helpline: 0800 224488.

System  
lets down  
children  
in care  
EDUCATION

## Security men could be second police force

PRIVATE GUARDS could form a second security "force" to patrol Britain's streets, shops and estates under plans being examined by chief constables.

The police would train, licence and manage all guards from the security officers working in Woolworths to local authority patrols on housing estates, under one proposed scheme.

Ian Blair, Chief Constable of Surrey, told the Association of Chief Police Officers: "We already train and accredit door supervisors - bouncers to you and me - who carry out a much more confrontational task. Why shouldn't we do the same with private security and local authority patrols?"

The controversial proposals come as police chiefs admit that they are unable to provide enough patrol officers. They sparked fears that this could mark the end of the traditional beat bobby.

The initiative was raised yesterday at a police conference in Birmingham. It quickly became clear that the move is backed by many chief constables, who reluctantly believe it is the only way to control the estimated 50,000 private and local authority guards in Britain while meeting ever-increasing public demand for better security.

By JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Local authorities in 18 of the 43 forces in England and Wales run their own security patrols, and private firms operate on housing estates in a further seven force areas.

Ian Blair, Chief Constable of Surrey, told the Association of Chief Police Officers: "We already train and accredit door supervisors - bouncers to you and me - who carry out a much more confrontational task. Why shouldn't we do the same with private security and local authority patrols?"

He cited examples of private security guards in the United States and Holland. In America, some areas had guards who wore Butlins-style redcoat uniforms. Such forces could help to give a "new sense of public reassurance", he said.

As an illustration, he suggested setting up a private guard system in Woking, Surrey, called "Surrey Police Compliant", with ununiformed members in radio contact and



Is this the face of the beat copper of the future? Police chiefs want to forge links with Britain's army of private guards

Philip Meech

a police constable acting as "beat manager". They would monitor truancy, parking, shop-  
ping centres and offices.

Mr Blair said that only a very small number of police officers currently carried out patrols. "In all honesty it is not abandoning a monopoly of patrol - it is admitting that we

haven't had one for years."

In Holland, every town is patrolled by the Stadswacht, or City Guard, who have uniforms but no powers, and are managed by the police.

David Blahey, president of Acpo and Chief Constable of West Mercia, said he would discuss the proposal with other

chiefs, the Home Office and police authorities. He said: "This is an exciting prospect. There are various (private security) people in various uniforms ... we are saying, let's put some formal stamp on that."

But despite insisting that the private guards would not

result in bobbies being taken off the beat, the policy switch was immediately criticised.

Michael O'Byrne, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, said: "There's a danger that the public might be conned into thinking that this cheaper patrol service is the same as a patrol officer, and it isn't." He added:

"The security industry is cheap, and if you pay peanuts you get monkeys."

An enquiry by a committee of MPs found evidence that the unregulated private security industry has employed a significant number of criminals. This included convicted murderers, rapists, burglars and men who

had been jailed for assault.

The Police Federation, which represents all beat officers, suggested that chief constables were merely looking at a way of cutting costs.

The Association of Police Authorities said: "Police powers must not lightly be assigned to others."

### IN BRIEF

#### Lucille McLaughlin's theft and fraud case is adjourned

A CASE in which the nurse Lucille McLaughlin, freed recently from a Saudi jail, faces theft and fraud charges was adjourned for a further month. Ms McLaughlin was not present at the procedural hearing at Dundee Sheriff Court. She faces two charges of theft and one of fraud. It is alleged that in March 1996, at Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee, she stole a bank card and diary. A second charge alleges she stole £1,960 by means of a bank card and identification number feloniously obtained.

#### Mogul remanded in murder case

A MILLIONAIRE charged with murdering his wife was remanded in custody for a further two weeks. Derek Goldsmith, 61, of Sevenoaks, Kent, appeared before Maidstone magistrates. The body of his common-law wife, Diana, 44, was found under a shed at a house in Bromley in 1997, two years after she disappeared.

#### RSBP recovers rare eggs

A MAN and woman in their thirties are to be questioned about a haul of more than 300 rare birds' eggs after raids on two addresses in Coventry. West Midlands Police and officials from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds found enough little tern and kingfisher eggs during searches on Wednesday.

#### Whisky impostors on the rocks

THE SCOTCH Whisky Association was yesterday toasting the European Court victory which protects the name of the spirit from impostors. Judges in Luxembourg ruled that whisky drinks with an alcoholic strength of less than 40 per cent are not worthy of the name. The association launched a legal action against Gold River - a French blend of diluted Scotch, Canadian and American whiskies.

#### Solicitor jailed over forgery

A SOLICITOR was yesterday jailed at Preston Crown Court for six months for forging a colleague's signature on a witness statement for her own industrial tribunal case. Sheena Khan, 30, asked her friend and colleague Carole Clarke to be a witness for her in her tribunal case against employers Robert Brodrie. But when Miss Clarke declined, Khan forged her signature on a typed prepared statement.

#### Grieving McCartney stays away

SIR PAUL McCartney yesterday pulled out of a degree ceremony he was due to attend in Liverpool next week as he continued to grieve for his late wife Linda. The former Beatle had been invited to his home town by John Moore University, which wants to bestow him with an Honorary Fellowship. Sir Paul's representative said the singer-songwriter felt unable to go through with the ceremony.

#### Dennis still favourite for boys

DENNIS THE Menace and Gnasher still reign supreme in the comic book stakes, according to a new survey. The Beano was voted favourite comic by boys aged nine to 15 in a survey by advertising agency Leo Burnett. David Donaldson, of the comic's publisher, DC Thomson, said: "It's got pedigree. Grandmothers and mothers know it, and its characters are such long-time favourites."

## Hemp beer hits Britain - but you won't get stoned

By DIANA BLAMIRE

THE COUNTRY'S first hemp beer is being consumed in London's bars and clubs. But anti-drugs campaigners need not worry - you would need to drink 3,000 bottles to get stoned.

A German company has teamed up with an English importer to bring the grass-flavoured drink to Britain.

Absjorbs Gerlach, one of the founders of the Berlin-based Bier Company, said: "Hops and hemp are very closely related. In 1996, when growing hemp became legal, we decided to try making beer."

Using hemp as a flavouring agent in beer is a very old idea and was popular in the Middle Ages. The drink has a slightly fruity, grassy flavour but tastes very similar to lager."

The strain of hemp used for beer-making is a sister plant of cannabis and contains only minute amounts of the drug. Mr Gerlach said: "You would have to drink so many bottles that it would kill you before you got

stoned. We are not promoting cannabis - we are promoting hemp."

"We have called the beer Turn because we want people to turn their minds to the idea of using hemp. It is good for the environment. To make paper it takes 12 hectares of rainforest but only one hectare of hemp."

Brian Haddow, an Englishman living near Munich, was already exporting chocolate from Germany to Britain when he came across the new 4.9 per cent brew and instantly had the idea of introducing it to the rest of Europe.

Mr Haddow and his nephew Paul set up in business and have so far exported Turn to England and Denmark. It is also bound for France, Italy, Spain and Poland.

Paul Haddow said: "Brian is a real fan of German beers and hemp beer tastes very similar."

"We are targeting the 18- to 32-year-olds in trendy London bars and clubs. After that we want to take it to the rest of the country."

## Blacks 'are not more likely to be jailed'

By IAN BURRELL

THE HOME Office produced research yesterday stating that black and Asian offenders were no more likely to be sent to prison than their white counterparts.

The findings would appear to contradict claims that disproportionate numbers of prison inmates come from ethnic minorities because of discrimination by the courts.

The report found that magistrates' courts sentenced exactly the same proportion of defendants to custody (11 per cent), in the three ethnic groups of white, black and Asian. At Crown Courts, 48 per cent of whites were jailed, compared to 45 per cent of

blacks and 46 per cent of Asians.

Research carried out by Professor Roger Hood of Oxford University published in 1992 showed that young Afro-Caribbean males were more frequently sent to jail than white offenders who had committed similar offences.

But Lee Jaspar, director of the 1990 Trust, a London-based black community group, said that the Home Office report would not reflect racism in the Crown Prosecution Service.

He said: "The CPS will bring a weak case against a black defendant because they know that with a white judge and jury they can secure a verdict. A similar case with a white suspect would not come to court."

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# Stores to fight ban on cut-price designer goods

LEADING SUPERMARKETS yesterday pledged to fight a controversial European court ruling that will make it harder for British consumers to buy cut-price designer goods.

Their pledge follows a decision by European judges that the sale of designer clothing, sunglasses, perfume and other upmarket products imported into Europe without the brand owners' consent is a breach of European law.

The ruling by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg is a major blow to the thriving £100m UK market in so-called "grey market" goods.

This has enabled supermarket groups like Tesco and Asda to buy up cut-priced stocks of top names such as Nike, Levi's, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger and sell them at knock-down prices against the manufacturers' wishes. Following the ruling, British con-

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

sumers will face the prospect of paying much higher prices for branded goods than consumers in the United States.

The major supermarkets immediately hit out at the ruling saying it was a restriction of consumer choice. "As a retailer I'm disappointed - as a consumer, I'm furious," said John Gildersleeve, Tesco's commercial director. He said the ruling would be a particular

blow to those on lower income groups who might not be able to afford the full prices.

Tesco, which has stocked Levi's at £30 a pair compared to the typical price of £50, said it would continue to gain supplies of cut-priced goods where it could. Asda, which has attacked high prices on books, medicines and perfumes, also expressed disappointment, saying it would be seeking cut-price supplies within the EU, which would not contravene the Court ruling.

Branded goods companies are keen to maintain the kudos of their brands with higher prices. They refuse to supply supermarkets saying they are unsuitable "environments" for their products.

Sports companies defend their high prices saying they reflect their investment in research and development, their support of grass roots sports and the presence in licensed stockists of trained staff.

The government criticised the court decision. Nigel Griff-

fiths, consumer affairs minister, said: "Quite clearly this is bad news for consumers. It allows foreign manufacturers to dictate the prices British consumers have to pay."

Supermarkets like Tesco and Asda have been waging a long campaign against higher priced consumer goods saying there is no reason why they should be more expensive here than they are in the United States.

The supermarkets have obtained supplies from the "grey market", whose stocks are fed by retailers who have overstocked or factories which have over-produced. Discounts on top names.

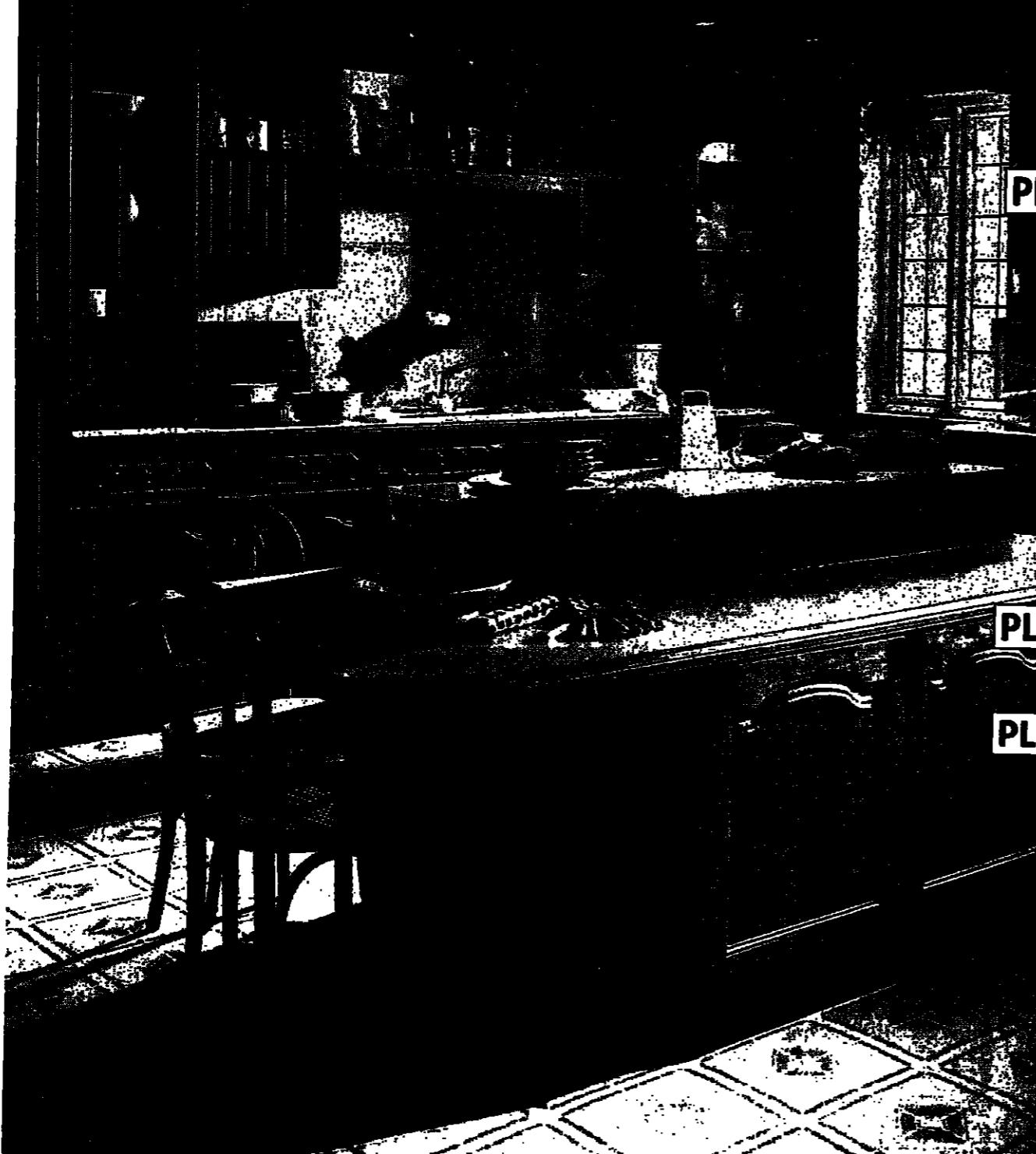
Tesco has been charging £45 for men's Nike Triax trainers against a typical high street price of £75. It has also knocked £12 off the price of an Umbro England football shirt, charging £33 against the more usual £45.



Cut-price Levi 501 jeans for sale at the Tesco store, Pitsea, Essex

Anglia

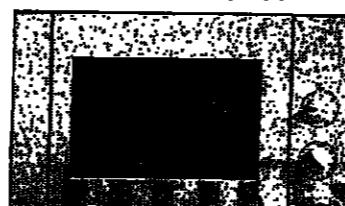
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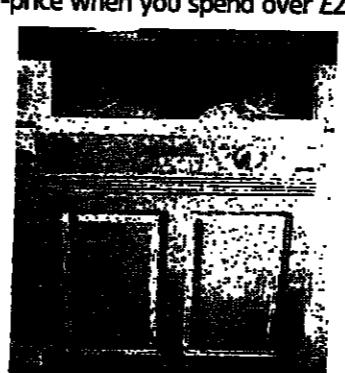
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## Calman says ME is real

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

THE DISABLING condition known as chronic fatigue syndrome, which some doctors have denied exists, received official recognition yesterday when the Government's Chief Medical Officer declared it was real.

Sir Kenneth Calman urged doctors to take the condition seriously and treat patients suffering from it with sensitivity. He announced an independent group, including patients, to advise on treatment and disseminate best practice to GPs.

Sufferers from the syndrome include a number of prominent figures such as the Duchess of Kent, Esther Rantzen's daughter, and Clare Francis, the former round-the-world yachtswoman, who has since worked hard to publicise it. One of the puzzling features of the condition is that although it supposedly leaves its victims exhausted, no illness inspires stronger passions.

Giving his first press conference on the syndrome, called to launch a new research report, Sir Kenneth said: "I recognise chronic fatigue syndrome is a real entity. It is distressing, debilitating and affects a very large number of people. It poses a significant challenge to the medical profession."

His acknowledgement of the condition, also known as ME (myalgic encephalitis), was welcomed by patient groups who have complained of being treated as a new entity but had in earlier decades been identified as fibromyalgia (a joint disorder), hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar), chronic brucellosis (an infection caught from livestock) and, between the wars, battle fatigue syndrome.

The research report, "Chronic Fatigue", published yesterday by the Linbury Trust,

echoes earlier studies in attributing both physical and psychological elements to the condition. However, the principal available treatments, anti-depressant drugs and psychotherapy, target the psychological aspects.

Sir Kenneth said diagnosing the syndrome was "caught with difficulty" because it depended on excluding all other possible causes of the symptoms which typically include aches and pains, weakness and malaise. Difficulties in diagnosis made it difficult to manage but one of the most important features was a good doctor-patient relationship.

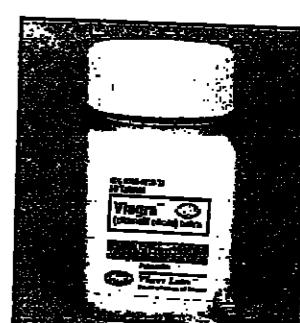
The Linbury Trust is one of the Sainsbury family trusts and has donated over £2m to research on the syndrome. Alan McGregor, professor of medicine at King's College Hospital, London, and chairman of the trust's scientific advisory panel said the condition once known as "yuppie flu" affected 0.5 per cent of the adult population - more than 150,000 people. "The idea that it is a disease of yuppies is rubbish. People of all classes are affected. It has a big impact on the community."

He criticised doctors who dismissed the condition as trivial. "There has been a tradition of laughing it out of the surgery, ignoring the patients or patting them on the back and telling them there was nothing wrong. We are saying that is not enough."

Dr Stephen Straus, of the US National Institutes of Health, said what was now recognised as chronic fatigue syndrome was not a new entity but had in earlier decades been identified as fibromyalgia (a joint disorder), hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar), chronic brucellosis (an infection caught from livestock) and, between the wars, battle fatigue syndrome.

## VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE



VIAGRA WARS broke out yesterday as scientists vied for the credit for inventing the world's most talked about drug. In truth, it was more of a small skirmish but in the world after Viagra everything seems larger than life.

To the embarrassment of manufacturers Pfizer, who insisted it was a team effort, one of the scientists named in the patents filed for the drug claimed the glory for himself.

Dr Nicholas Terrett, from Wingham, near Canterbury said: "There were three patents put forward for Viagra. Basically, me and my team discovered how useful the drug might be."

Pfizer immediately told all scientists not to speak in public, and issued a statement saying although half a dozen names appeared on the three patents "hundreds of scientists worked to create the drug over many years."

Nonetheless, Dr Terrett has a better claim than most. His name appeared, with two others, on the original patent in June 1991 when the compound from which Viagra is derived was thought to be

a potential treatment for heart trouble. Three years later, his name appeared again on a second patent, with a different colleague, registering it as a treatment for impotence.

So even if it is wrong to describe him as father of the drug, he has at least been midwife to its delivery.

He may yet live to regret it. In the US, Viagra has been available for less than four months but yesterday the first legal case against the company was launched by a man who suffered a heart attack after taking the pill. It is not known what he was doing at the time.

JEREMY LAURANCE

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wins time  
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President Chirac (left) and Hafez al-Assad inspecting the guard of honour at Orly yesterday

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

AN ISRAELI court yesterday sentenced Nahum Manbar, 52, ex-paratrooper and businessman, to 16 years in prison for selling materials to make mustard and nerve gases to Iran. The prosecution said it was the worst case "in Israel's criminal history".

Before being sentenced, Mr Manbar, who made a profit of \$16m (£9.7m) from the sale, said: "My feeling was that everyone was doing it along with me and that dealings with Iran did not require permission."

His family says Mr Manbar is a scapegoat because Israel was under pressure from the US for breaching the American embargo on weapons sales to Iran.

The circumstances surrounding Mr Manbar's arrest and trial have been overshadowed by a claim by Amnon Zichroni, his lawyer that Puinat Yanai, one of the defence team, was having an affair with the judge and leaking him secret information. Mr Zichroni says he will appeal against the verdict and the decision by Amnon Strashnov the judge, not to disqualify himself from the case.

The allegations against Ms Yanai all come from Ziv Chen, her former boyfriend, who claims that she was having affairs with Judge Strashnov while Labour was in power and only happened because of



Nahum Manbar (left)



Puinat Yanai

Manbar's personal contacts with members of the Labour party".

Mr Netanyahu, with some justification, says that no evidence was ever produced to support allegations that he had spoken about the case with Judge Strashnov. He says the story is part of a prolonged campaign against him and his family by the media.

Ms Yanai says that the stories about her were all concocted by her former boyfriend. She worked briefly for Judge Strashnov before being invited to join Mr Manbar's defence team. She says was given the job simply because she knew the presiding judge.

It is unclear how Mr Manbar, who left Israel in 1985 to live in France, was able to become an arms dealer able to supply Iran with 24 truckloads of specialised equipment capable of making poison gas.

At the time of his departure from Israel his business ventures had failed. The prosecution said he was convicted of fraud. But within a few years he was able to buy a Jerusalem basketball team. Israeli press reports suggest that Mr Manbar's fortunes were transformed after 1990 because he had married Francine, the widow of a German arms manufacturer.

Israel has been pressing the US to dissuade Russia from supplying Iran with the means to develop a long-range missile.

However, Israel is not at the centre of Iranian foreign policy. Israel was a regular supplier of weapons to Iran in the 1980s when a more militant regime was in power in Tehran. Iran was also a prime victim of Iraqi poison gas attack in the Iran-Iraq war, losing 50,000 in dead and wounded to mustard gas alone.

Mr Manbar yesterday denied that he intended any harm to his country. In tears, he said: "I love Israel. I never thought that anything I do would hurt Israel." Evidently he thought he was in the clear or he would not have visited Israel in 1987 when he was arrested at Tel Aviv airport.

## French press gang up on Syria's Assad

THE LION of Damascus arrived at Orly airport yesterday afternoon to be met by a beaming President Chirac, the gold-helmeted Garde Républicaine, a company of Foreign Legionnaires, a flurry of Arab ambassadors - and a French press anxious only to heap scorn on the Syrian president.

"So you look as young as ever, despite your 30 years here," Hafez al-Assad joked to the French head of the Franco-Arab solidarity committee inside Orly's Pavillon d'Honneur as Jacques Chirac went on beaming beside him.

The Syrian president was all smiles, too, the gravelly voice clear above the lurch of diplomatic conversation, the dark eyes flicking from ambassadorial face to interpreter and back to the tall Frenchman who had declared a "strategic partnership" with his country. Chirac's old friend Rafic Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister, is said to have brought about this extraordinary summit - between the leader of a nation which seeks the most powerful European role in the Middle East and a dictator who needs European protection from the dangerous winds now blasting across the region.

A French air force helicopter carried the two men to the grounds of the Elysée where they talked for more than two hours about the now-dead "peace process", the dangers of a future Middle East war and - of vital importance to President Assad - the limits to which France is prepared to go to support Syria's continuing demand for the original Middle East plan of land-for-peace. President Assad still demands the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in return for a full peace with Israel. And he blames Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister who now refuses to give back Golan, for the white-hot crisis smouldering in the region.

It is not difficult to understand how vulnerable Syria feels. No amount of fraternal delegations will bring its old Soviet ally back to life. The Americans, who sent a confidential letter to Mr Assad in 1991, promising a Middle East peace based on the return of all occupied Arab lands, including Golan, will not force Israel to ho-

with Mr Assad the case of Alois Brunner, Adolf Eichmann's assistant, who sent tens of thousands of Jews to Auschwitz during the Second World War and who was, much later, given asylum by President Assad's predecessors in Damascus. Brunner was allowed to stay on under Assad until he reportedly died of cancer more than five years ago. The Syrian leader has never acknowledged the Austrian's existence but did not help his case by telling French television this week that "if you know where he lives, I will send someone to go with you to find him".

On the other hand, no-one in France is demanding the arrest of other war criminals in the Middle East who still live free in the region. More than 30 years ago Israeli intelligence agents murdered dozens of captured Egyptian soldiers in Sinai, shooting them in the head after forcing them to dig their graves. Israel admitted the atrocity, but the guilty men were never arrested.

As for human rights, Syria still keeps several hundred political prisoners jail. But in 1995, it released 1,500 of them and freed a further 330 last month, 120 of them Lebanese, partly, it is said, under pressure from France.

President Assad had appreciated France's refusal to continue its exclusive alliance with the Christian Maronites of Lebanon who oppose Syria's influence and its 22,000 troops in the country. According to Syrian sources, a French foreign ministry official told Lebanese Christian exiles that "la France de Pape" will no more smile upon them.

The French could never prove Syria guilty of their ambassador's murder - although there weren't many other suspects around - and the attack on the French parashas came amid a proxy war between Syria and NATO forces in Beirut who were supporting an Israeli-installed Lebanese government. True, Syria killed up to 20,000 Islamist insurgents during an uprising in Hama in 1982. But how many Algerians did France slaughter in the Algerian war? The history books suggest a million. Messrs Chirac and Assad are likely to avoid counting the dead.

PHILIP HENSHER

"Remarkable proms are getting fewer and fewer, driven by an increasingly eclectic and cautious approach to programming and commissioning"

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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# Abiola was poisoned, says Nigeria's Nobel winner



Wole Soyinka: Convinced

MOSHOOD ABIOLA, the Nigerian politician, was killed, and did not die of a heart attack, preliminary autopsy results have shown, the Nigerian playwright and Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka says.

"I'm convinced that some kind of slow poison was administered to Abiola," Soyinka said yesterday told *The African Journal-Constitution*.

Abiola, apparent winner of annulled presidential elections in 1993, died on 7 July while

meeting a group of visiting US officials, shortly before he was expected to be released from prison. His death set off days of rioting and chaos in the West African country. Abiola was jailed in 1994 after being accused of treason by the late dictator General Sani Abacha, who died in early June.

Preliminary autopsy results found Abiola died naturally of an apparent heart attack but pro-democracy groups still hold the government responsible

for the death, saying he suffered poor treatment while in prison.

Soyinka, on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta, where he is a professor after being exiled from Nigeria, gave several reasons for belief that Abiola was killed. He said the timing of his death was suspicious and previous political prisoners had been given injections against their will.

Soyinka added that he received a note from Nigeria four days before Abiola's death. The

note said "a plot was afoot to kill Abiola and it will happen in the next few days". Soyinka said, adding that he forwarded the note to the United Nations.

Abiola's daughter, Hafsat, has also said she believes that her father was poisoned.

Abiola's autopsy is not complete - examiners are waiting for toxicology results. But the initial autopsy showed his heart was so diseased that no other cause of death seemed likely.

Soyinka won his Nobel Prize

for literature in 1996, the first African to win the award. He fled Nigeria in 1995 after learning that military authorities were going to arrest him for criticising the government.

He has remained an outspoken critic of the present Nigerian regime and urged in the interview that a government of national unity should be formed immediately in Nigeria, along with a national conference to decide how elections would be held. Soyinka also said

that he would not seek to follow in the footsteps of another famous playwright, Vaclav Havel, who became president of the Czech Republic.

"There are certain functions which I can perform, and being president is not one of them,"

In Nigeria one day after the military government ordered the release of hundreds of inmates, a prominent human rights organisation demanded freedom for more than 400 po-

litical prisoners. The government of Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar has yet to identify the prisoners ordered released on Wednesday, and it was not clear if any had already returned home. Officials said those given clemency included at least 400 people convicted by special military tribunals created by the late Gen Abacha.

But Nigeria's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights said there are 404 political prisoners who should be freed.

## Donors prepare to feed Sudan

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

INTERNATIONAL AID agencies were yesterday gearing up for a new effort to help the famine-threatened regions of southern Sudan, following the three-month ceasefire between the insurgent Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Islamist government in Khartoum.

Under the deal, worked out during a visit to the region by Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister, the SPLA is committing itself to what it says is a purely "humanitarian truce" for three months to allow food to get through to a starving population of some 1.2 million, mostly in the southwestern Bahr el Ghazal region. The move has "nothing to do with issues of war and peace in Sudan", the SPLA said.

After initially calling a one-month ceasefire, Khartoum has now signed up to a similar three-month truce, with immediate effect, covering the period until October's harvest. Three safe corridors - "corridors of tranquillity" in official parlance - have been designated to permit food to get through not only by air, but by road, rail and river as well.

The truce is the result of intense outside pressure on both sides - not only from Mr Fatchett, *de facto* representative of the European Union and Western donor countries who yesterday met the Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail in Khartoum, but also from the countries in the region which have long grappled in vain with one of Africa's most intractable conflicts.

Since 1983 the Islamic, Arabic speaking government of Africa's largest nation has been

at war with the predominantly Christian and animist south, led by the Nairobi-based SPLA. But notwithstanding periodic efforts to find a political solution, the conflict has continued, with no guarantee this latest ceasefire will see a decisive breakthrough.

During a previous truce in 1995 Khartoum obstructed the delivery of food and supplies to non-Muslims in the south. This time it seems to be more amenable - but perhaps only because a pause in hostilities will allow its forces to regroup.

Equally, the SPLA may intend to be as good as its word. But it must contend with factional infighting, as well as lawlessness in the region, which could impede the relief effort.

Hence the gloomy private predictions of some relief workers that the ceasefire will make little practical difference.

Even so, Mr Fatchett hailed the deal on the corridors as a "significant step forward" which should enable more aid to reach Bahr el Ghazal. Beyond that, moreover, is the possibility it will provide an opportunity for a political dialogue that could provide the basis for a lasting settlement of the 15-year conflict.

Even before this latest ceasefire, a few glimmers of hope were detectable. Two months ago, the government and the SPLA agreed at talks in Kenya that an internationally supervised vote should be held in the south on self-determination, and follow-up discussions are due in Addis Ababa next month.

Considerable obstacles remain, including disagreement on whether all religions should be allowed to take part. But, one British official said last night, "for the first time there's a realistic chance something may happen."

A child in Bahr el Ghazal, southern Sudan, where 1.2 million people are affected by famine. Philippe Reinaers



## Youth dies in KwaZulu killing fields

BY EMELIA SITHOLE in Johannesburg

A 16-YEAR-OLD youth was murdered yesterday in KwaZulu-Natal, the troubled province where 25 people have died in violence during the past two weeks.

The latest killing, in Richmond, came as the government deployed more police and soldiers in an attempt to stabilise the area, which has been racked by violence attributed to political rivalries.

Police said the youth died on his way to hospital after a man opened fire on him and his friends as they were having supper at their home.

His two companions were in a serious condition in hospital, police said.

"The motive would appear to be connected to the ongoing violence in Richmond," a statement said.

On Wednesday the government started to send in soldiers, doubling to 240 the number of troops deployed in the province to contain the killings, which began two weeks ago among rival parties already eyeing next year's second all-race general election.

The Safety and Security Minister, Sidney Mufamadi, said about 240 policemen would also be deployed following the transfer of some policemen suspected of complicity in the violence.

The killings have raised fears of a resurgence of widespread violence in KwaZulu-Natal, where turf wars between the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its arch-foe, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), have divided the Zulu population.

About 14,000 people died in KwaZulu-Natal in the decade to 1994 in conflict mainly between the ANC and the IFP.

The fighting has subsided since, but now seems to be threatening to flare anew in the lush hillside villages as a third party enters the battle for political turf.

The ANC, which failed to win control of the province in the country's first all-race elec-

tions in 1994, has accused the newly established United Democratic Movement (UDM) of fanning the violence around Richmond.

The UDM, formed as a breakaway from President Nelson Mandela's ANC after it ousted one of the new party's key leaders, denies causing the violence, saying the ANC is at fault.

On Wednesday ANC officials in Richmond walked out of a meeting of political parties called to discuss the killings after a tussle with the IFP over who should chair the meeting.

Political analysts have

warned of a resurgence of violence in KwaZulu-Natal if the government fails to contain the Richmond killings.

President Nelson Mandela kicked off his 80th birthday celebrations yesterday, hosting a party in the Kruger game reserve for more than 1,000 orphans.

Mr Mandela, who becomes an octogenarian on Saturday, danced on stage with four young girls who serenaded him with the words: "You're so special". Newspaper reports have also speculated that part of the celebrations will be wedding bells, as Mr Mandela ties the knot with his sweetheart, Graca Machel.

"Madiba's wedding bells," The Star newspaper said in a banner headline. But Mr Mandela's spokeswoman, Priscilla Naidoo, said: "The President's office is unaware of any wedding plans."

Feting Mandela, Review, page 5

## Tough reformer takes on the quiet man of Japanese politics

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

FIVE DAYS after a humiliating election result, and amid continuing uncertainty about the country's economy, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party has turned in on itself in a discreet but intense struggle to select the next prime minister.

Since Ryutaro Hashimoto announced his resignation last Monday, after the party's dismal showing in elections to the country's upper house, political life in Japan has effectively been put on hold. With a week

to go until a final decision is made, the choice is boiling down to two candidates: Seiroku Kajiyama, an outspoken and decisive right-winger; and the foreign minister, Keizo Obuchi, whose amiable dullness may be his ticket to power.

Every news bulletin brings further speculation. The latest, reported yesterday by the Kyodo news service, was that

after appearing to bow out of the race, the 72-year-old Mr Kajiyama was back in the running. The party had planned to select its new president on Tuesday, but this has been postponed until next Friday. The LDP's majority in the Diet's lower house virtually guarantees that whoever is chosen will be elected to replace Mr Hashimoto at a special sitting scheduled for the end of the month.

Political protocol requires that, publicly at least, the po-

tential candidates adopt an appearance of modest reluctance: the most Mr Obuchi would say yesterday in answer to questions about his ambitions was: "I'd like to consult others first." But in the restaurants and offices in and around Nagatacho, Tokyo's Westminster, there is no doubt that tension is running high.

Far from being a union of like-minded ideologues, the LDP is an association of factions whose mistrust of one another almost exceeds their suspicion of the

opposition. Mr Obuchi and Mr Kajiyama are members of the same faction, which bears Mr Obuchi's name but is dominated by the wily Noboru Takeshita, a former prime minister.

In contrast to Mr Hashimoto, who was a relative outsider, both men are old-style LDP party stalwarts. Economists and businessmen, haunted by the vulnerable state of Japan's economy, favour Mr Kajiyama, whose pugnacity could be put to great use in driving through

the financial reforms seen as essential to Japan's recovery. After reports yesterday of Mr Kajiyama's intentions, the stock market rose and the yen strengthened. But if his decisiveness is a virtue, it has also made him enemies.

About 61-year-old Mr Obuchi, there is little to say. Acquaintances describe him as pleasant, unassertive and almost entirely lacking in ideas. "He's the kind of person who will sit next to you at dinner and never say much

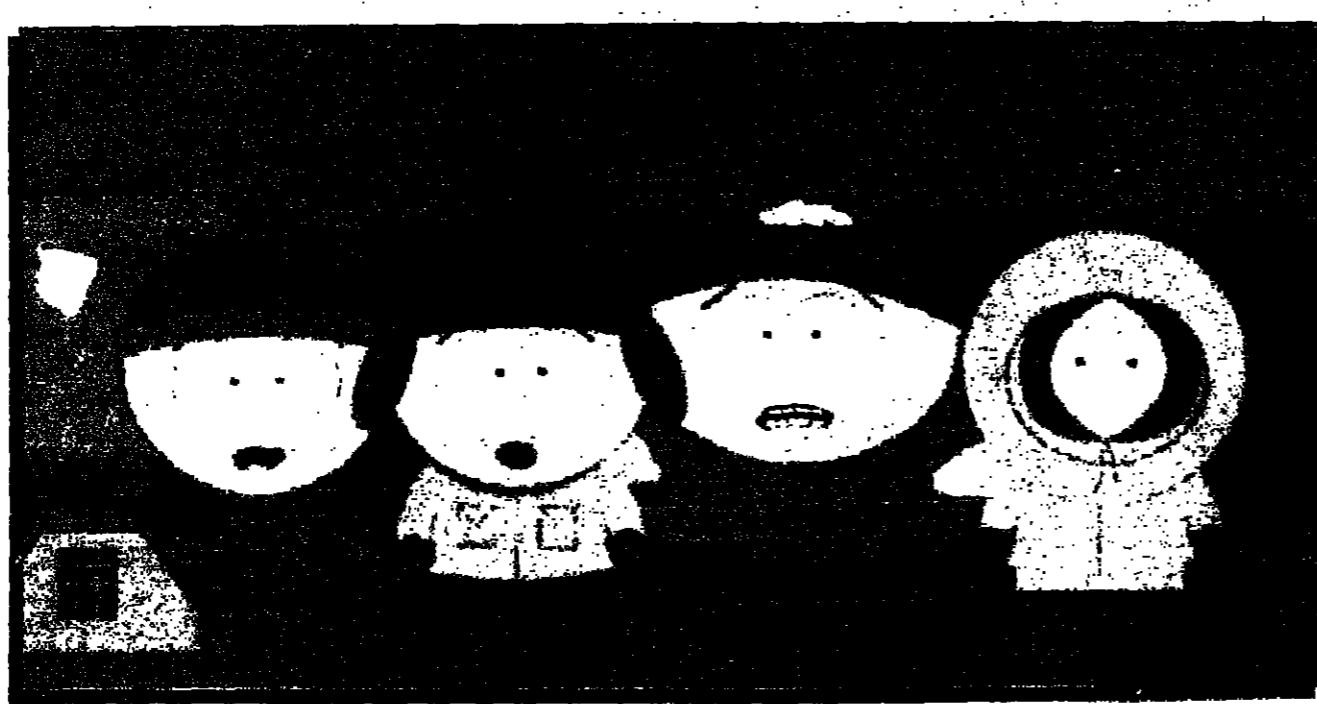
apart from 'thank you', 'thanks', and 'see you later'", says Minoru Morita, a political analyst. "It's very rare to hear any other words from his mouth."

But in the quarrelsome LDP this inoffensiveness may carry the day, although it is difficult to imagine the inert Obuchi winning a general election. If it does come to a two-horse race between members of the same faction, however, the consequences could be serious: Mr Obuchi's supporters are lobbying for a de-

cision by consensus, rather than by public vote, which could exacerbate party divisions.

There is still a chance that other candidates may step forward, particularly the health and welfare minister, Junichiro Koizumi, 56, an ardent reformer who is supported by younger LDP members.

And if they remain on speaking terms, it is possible that Mr Obuchi might appeal to Mr Kajiyama by promising him the finance minister's job.



July 15, 1998

The John Lennon graffiti wall in Prague in 1991  
Jaroslav Hejzlar/CTK

## Lennon rises again on Prague's graffiti wall

ACCORDING TO one version, John Lennon was assassinated over his boast that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ. But tomorrow in Prague, Lennon will rise again. Today's visitors to the Lennon tribute in Prague bring their guitars and joss sticks to a blank wall. The 17-year-old anti-Communist testament to peace and love was recently chipped away and replastered to make way for a new, improved, "cleaner" version.

At the centre of the facelift is the modern branch of the medieval order, The Knights of Malta, who own the wall bordering its embassy in Prague's Mala Strana district.

Under Communism, graffiti – or any form of independent thinking – was quashed, with one exception. After Lennon's death in 1980, an unknown graffiti artist wrote the name "John Winston Lennon" in small letters on a water pipe next to the

BY RADHA BURGESS  
in Prague

wall. The Communist authorities eliminated this small act of subversion – the Beatles' recordings were, after all, officially banned material.

But next day and for the next nine years, Lennon lyrics and peace symbols reappeared. The authorities obliterated the daubs by day and dissidents retaliated with their spray cans under the cover of night.

Some sources said that the Knights were keen to paint over the mural when their property was restored to them after the 1989 Velvet Revolution – a claim the Knights today reject. After the revolution, it seemed as if the mural would stand as a symbol of pacifism in Prague for ever.

Nine years later, however, nothing but Lennon's eyes and tag graffiti remained, as enthusiastic souvenir-hunters

chipped most of the original mural to pieces.

After consulting the John Lennon Peace Club in Prague and the Prague Conservation Society, the Knights decided to replaster the wall and invite people to re-create the mural, but according to strict rules.

The Czech artist Frantisek Flasar today begins painting Lennon's portrait.

On Monday the Knights have organised a "happening" at which the public will be invited to contribute. Much of the expected new graffiti will be regularly removed – by the John Lennon Peace Club. As the club and the Knights see it, the appropriate way for graffiti artists to express their tribute to the Beatle is to paint a flower. Free art, large words or slogans are frowned upon. Messages will be tolerated only if they appear within the floral forms radiating from Lennon's flowing locks.

## Dutch porn ring exploited two-year-olds

DUTCH POLICE were investigating allegations yesterday that an international child pornography ring exploited toddlers as young as two and distributed their images worldwide via the Internet.

The investigation focuses on child pornography in all its facets – the production and distribution of the material, a police spokesman said, adding that the authorities were not yet in possession of the alleged pornographic material.

The inquiry follows a report by a Belgian anti-pornography group, Morkhoven, that it found thousands of computer discs in a flat in the Dutch seaside town of Zandvoort. The discs were loaded with pornographic pictures of children. The Dutch current affairs television programme NOVA reported. Morkhoven showed some of the images to the programme makers, who decided they were too disturbing to broadcast.

A spokeswoman for NOVA said that the correspondent responsible for the report was in contact with the Dutch police, and added that all the alleged evidence was with Morkhoven.

The police spokesman would give no details of the case pending the outcome of the investigation. He also declined to comment on reports that Dutch police were working with Bel-

BY JANET MCBRIDE  
in Amsterdam

gian and German authorities. But he confirmed that the Dutch authorities were in contact with Morkhoven. "We are waiting for the pornographic material to be handed over, then it will be used in our investigation," he said.

According to the German newspaper *Berliner Morgenpost*, Morkhoven stumbled across the discs during a search for a 12-year-old boy from Berlin who disappeared in 1993. The global child pornography network has its centre in Berlin, according to the newspaper.

It was not clear how Morkhoven gained access to the property. The Dutch media said its owner was a German man, identified as G Ulrich, allegedly a member of the pornography ring. The media believe he was recently murdered in Italy by fellow gang member, apparently because he had tipped off police about the ring's activities.

Dutch campaigners have long complained that there is insufficient regulation of the Internet and the material it carries. Meldpunkt Kinderporno wrote to the Dutch government recently urging the introduction of measures to combat child pornography on the worldwide web.

Yesterday, Meldpunkt Kinderporno said it had had no contact with Morkhoven over the most recent allegations.

Numerous official and private investigations have failed to find Manuel Schadwald, the missing German boy, although there were signs that he had fallen into the hands of Dutch child pornographers.

Berlin's chief prosecutor, Juergen Karge, announced this spring that the case had been closed after investigators failed to find evidence that a crime had been committed.

But the *Berliner Morgenpost* which has closely followed the case, reported in April about accusations of sloppy work by German and Dutch police.

After much public outcry, Berlin prosecutors met in late April with Marcel Vervloesem, a private detective with Morkhoven. Mr Vervloesem said he gave the police extensive evidence and the names of two previously unknown suspects.

Yesterday, the newspaper reported that Mr Vervloesem and its reporter in Amsterdam met with a 22-year-old Belgian man, who told them he was a friend of Schadwald's. The Belgian said the boy, now 17, was living in Amsterdam and involved in a child pornography network, the newspaper said.

The Belgian then fled with a Dutch man, it said.

## World Bank fraud fear

THE WASHINGTON-based World Bank, which has led a crusade against institutionalised corruption in the countries it lends to, has launched an investigation into dubious practices closer to home.

An internal memorandum from the Bank's president, James Wolfensohn, said that outside auditors had been retained and an internal fraud team set up to investigate possible fraud, embezzlement and kickbacks involving Bank employees.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers and two fraud specialists.

He said there was no reason to believe that the Bank had a big problem, but disclosed that it had already brought a civil suit against one employee suspected of accepting a kickback from a company bidding for a World Bank project. *The Washington Post* said the case involved a recently retired employee and a computerisation project in Algeria.

The outside audit will be

## He came, he sawed, he conquered

THE LAST time I lived in Paris, 20 years ago, I worked nights. I would wake in the early afternoon, too dazed to accomplish much, and wander over to the then-recently opened Pompidou Centre.

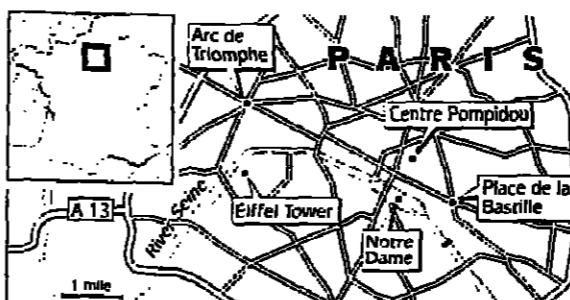
Among the street performers on the esplanade before the building my favourite, my great hero, was a man in his late thirties who looked vaguely like the French film director François Truffaut.

He played a carpenter's saw with a violin bow. Or rather he didn't play it. His act was one long digression in which he would never play more than a screeching note or two before breaking off to banter and insult and amuse the crowd.

When a large enough audience had assembled, he would seize on a handful of children and adults. Before they quite knew what was happening, they would be performing a droll, hilarious version of a fairytale, colliding with events from that day's news: Little Red Riding Hood, say with Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as The Wolf.

Sometimes the plays never really took off. On other occasions they would last for an hour or more and become wonderful, rambling, surreal satires. By the end, performers and audience – children and adults – would be weak with laughter.

Twenty years later, the esplanade in front of the Pompidou Centre, partly closed for renovations until the year 2000, is a faint echo of the vibrant place that it once was. But my hero, I was delighted to find, is still there. He does not use the saw and bow any more. These days, his only props are a stick, a whistle, a toy mobile telephone and a bowler hat, from which he



### EUROPEAN TIMES

PARIS

never quite gets around to producing a rabbit.

His name is John Guez (he is part-Spanish, part-French, born in Tunisia but his father was in the US Army). He is now 56 and white-haired but still youthful, almost childlike.

Mr Guez has performed outside the Pompidou Centre every day – rain permitting – for the last 22 years, since the building opened. He is a former door-to-door babywear salesman, married to a teacher of French.

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ed them to do so. An institution – and a marriage agency.

On one occasion, a couple with two children came up to him after his show. They said: "You won't remember us but..." They explained they had first met when he pulled them out of the crowd 10 years earlier to play parts in one of his plays. Similar meetings have occurred on several occasions since.

Yesterday the theme was troughly speaking, Sleeping Beauty or Rapunzel mixed up with the World Cup.

A shy girl from New York was selected to be the Princess. Two young Frenchmen were bullied into performing a shadow sword fight, with the princess as a prize for the loser: "Le vainqueur aura son cœur. Le vaincu aura son..." (He broke off.

"Cul" is a rude word for bottom in French or just for sex. So the sense is: "To the victor her heart. To the loser her body..."

This is the theme of the day; the loser is also the victor.

Afterwards, Mr Guez said that he had been disgusted by the "unthinking elation" of the French at their World Cup victory, a reaction that spared no time for the feelings of the Brazilians. "In life, there is a pile of witches in the audi-

ence today." By the time the play ended, there were 200 people watching and nine actors. The two young Frenchmen were bullied into performing a shadow sword fight, with the princess as a prize for the loser: "Le vainqueur aura son cœur. Le vaincu aura son..." (He broke off.

But this why he makes the street his stage? "Yes, every day I start with nothing. Every day, I force myself to perform better; to achieve something out of nothing. Every day is a victory over myself. I make a little money; the givers change to those people that he thinks are paying too much. But my reward is to see the joy of others, and especially the joy of the children."

But what happened to the saw and bow. "Ah the saw and bow yes. I decided eventually, after many years, that I was not polished enough performer with the saw to appear in public. Now I only perform at home for my own pleasure. And to annoy the neighbours."

JOHN LICHFIELD

John Guez, a capital institution  
Alastair Miller

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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Regent blackmail case adjourned

A BLACKMAIL case against an investigative accountant charged with allegedly making an unwarranted demand for money to Regent Inns and Clive Watson, its former finance director, has been adjourned until 9 September. Stephen Wright, who denies the charge, was instructed by the City of London Magistrates Court yesterday not to make contact with Regent Inns or any of the witnesses involved.

### Interim chairman at NatWest

  
SIR SYDNEY LIPWORTH has been tipped to become interim chairman at National Westminster Bank. Lord Alexander, NatWest's current chairman, is widely expected to stand down in April, and Lord Blyth, a NatWest non-executive director and Boots chairman, is likely to be appointed as Lord Alexander's permanent successor. Lord Blyth will be unable to take the helm at the bank until September 1999, and so Sir Sydney, deputy chairman of NatWest and chairman of Zeneca, has been tipped to take over in the interim. No formal announcement about the chairmanship of the bank is expected until the autumn.

### Siemens warns of losses

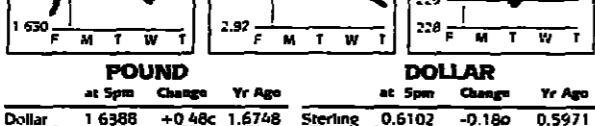
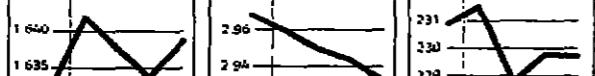
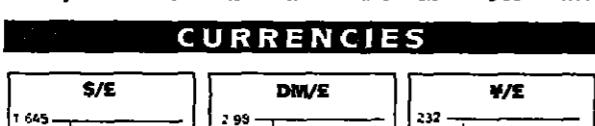
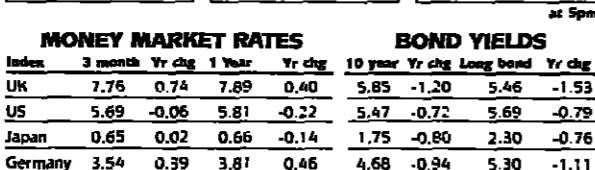
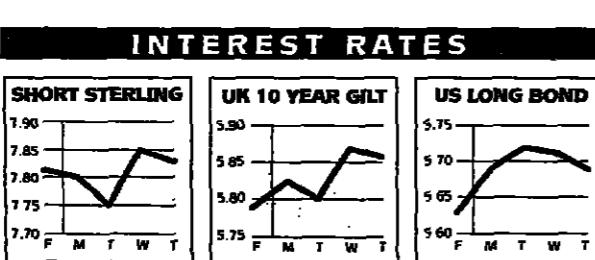
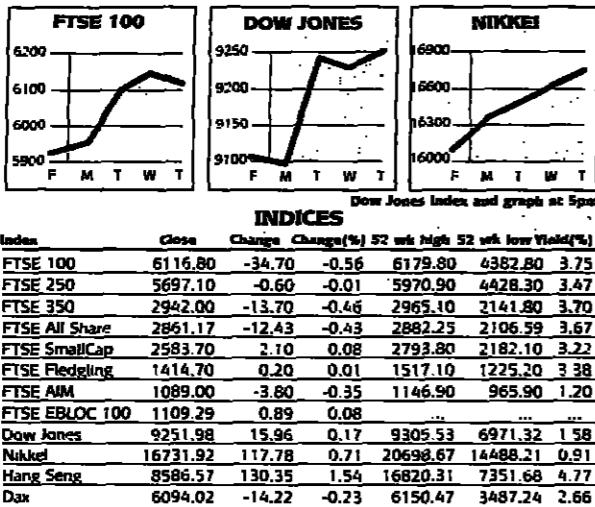
SIEMENS HAS warned that losses could rise above DM1bn (£340m) this year, after it revealed its semiconductor business had been hit by plummeting chip prices in the last 12 months. The German electronics and engineering giant yesterday announced a sweeping overhaul of its divisions, which could lead to cutbacks at its plant in Tyneside, and outlined plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its share capital.

Report, page 19

### Pounding for David S Smith

PAPER AND packaging group David S Smith suffered a mauling from the strong pound in the year to May with profits tumbling from £96m to £51m. Earnings per share fell 6 per cent to 11.1p, but the board, led by chairman Alan Clements, is raising the dividend rate 2.5 per cent to 8.2p and forecasts "a gradual improvement in trading performance", thanks to cost-cutting, price increases and stronger European markets. Investment column, page 21

### STOCK MARKETS



[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk) SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Close Chg. Yr Ago

W Brent Oil (\$): 11.95 0.00 18.49

Gold (\$): 293.95 -0.04 318.95

Silver (\$): 5.36 0.04 4.32

Base Rates 7.50 6.75

as 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

## Industry warns of 'manufacturing meltdown'

BY LEA PATERSON

THE BRITISH Chambers of Commerce (BCC) warned yesterday that the UK was facing a "manufacturing meltdown", with falling orders from both home and abroad.

New figures pointing to higher public spending in June also contributed to City jitters, and the blue-chip FTSE 100 index eased by 34.7 to close at 6116.8. The pound was trading almost a pence lower against the mark early yesterday afternoon, although it later recov-

ered to close virtually unchanged on the day at DM2,935. Dr Ian Peters, BCC deputy director general, confirmed that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had been given the results of the latest BCC quarterly survey of the economy before its interest rate meeting at the beginning of the month. Dr Peters said that his message to the Bank was clear - industry had suffered enough. "The question now facing the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is not whether interest rates should be cut, but when", he added. Dr Peters called for an "injection of realism" into UK monetary policy, and said the BCC wanted an MPC with "more real world experience".

The BCC survey found that net export losses had reached record lows and that home sales and orders had sunk to levels not seen since the last re-

cession. The BCC said it had also found evidence of a marked slowdown in the service sector, where domestic sales and orders had hit a three year low and export orders had hit a six year low.

Although City analysts agreed that the survey made for depressing reading, some said the BCC had overstated the severity of the slowdown in the manufacturing sector. John O'Sullivan at Greenwich NatWest commented: "The

BCC says that the UK faces a manufacturing meltdown, but the alarmist headline does not fully live up to their survey readings."

A similar line was taken by Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade, who called talk of a manufacturing meltdown "nonsense". "There is real concern, and that is understandable, but there is also a rather more mixed picture," she said.

Separate figures released by

the Office for National Statistics showed that the Public Sector Net Cash Requirement (PSNCR) - the new name for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) - totalled £1.1bn in June, £2bn higher than market expectations and £1.5bn higher than in the same period last year. However, analysts cautioned against reading too much into the figures, saying that UK public finances remained healthy and that monthly PSNCR data could be erratic.



Newcastle United's disgraced former directors Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd

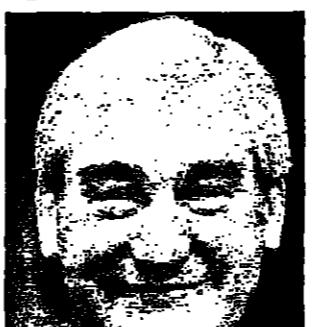
### Disgraced duo may return

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE new chairman of Newcastle United, Denis Cassidy, yesterday refused to rule out a return to the club by its two disgraced former directors, Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd.

He also said the prospect of the two men reducing their shareholdings in the club to below 50 per cent was "not a realistic issue at the moment". Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd, who between them own 65 per cent of the shares in the publicly quoted company, resigned from the club earlier this year after they were taped making offensive remarks about supporters and local women. Technically, they cannot dispose of any shares until December without the approval of NatWest, the original sponsor of the club's stock market flotation.

They have made no secret of their desire to return to the club and, although they have ceased to be directors are both repre-



Denis Cassidy: Newcastle United's new chairman

sented on the board of the plc by nominees.

Mr Cassidy said: "There has been a lot of speculation about them returning and it would be a very strange chairman who wasn't aware of the aspirations of the major shareholders." But he declined to say

whether the two men would be given positions at the club and said the views of Newcastle fans would be "an important element" in the board's deliberations.

Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd

had been asked to leave the club to below 50 per cent was "not a realistic issue at the moment".

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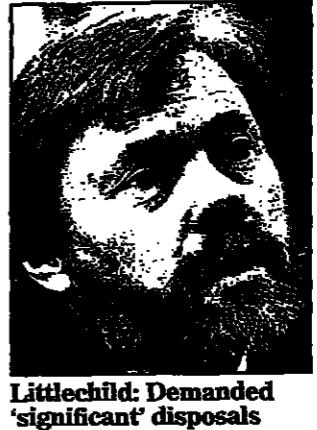
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## Littlechild may scupper power deal

BY MICHAEL HARRISON



POWERGEN's £1.9bn takeover

of East Midlands Electricity

was in doubt last night as the industry regulator prepared to veto the deal unless PowerGen agrees to dispose of up to half its coal-fired power stations.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director-general of electricity supply, is expected to submit his recommendation to the Office of Fair Trading in the next week to 10 days after completing a fortnight's consultation.

The decision to block the deal unless PowerGen sells off up to 5,000 megawatts of capacity could place the takeover in jeopardy.

PowerGen, led by its chairman Ed Wallis, has indicated it is prepared to dispose of only one 2,000 megawatt station in return for gaining approval to take over East Midlands.

Professor Littlechild is due

to meet the heads of both PowerGen and National Power next week to set out his requirements on divestment.

The Government has made

disposal of coal-fired plant by the two generators a central plank of its new energy policy.

The move is designed to

introduce more competition into

the generating market, and so

bring down prices, while

evening up the playing field for

coal and creating a bigger mar-

ket for the fuel.

PowerGen has upped the

stakes in its gamble to obtain

regulatory clearance for the

new power stations.

The last time PowerGen at-

tempted to buy a regional electricity company, Midland Electricity, it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC subsequently vetoed both that takeover and a bid by National Power for Southern Electric.

Between them National Power and PowerGen command about 40 per cent of the generating market and set prices in the electricity pool 70 per cent of the time.

Professor Littlechild reported earlier this month that their dominance of the market had resulted in prices being 30 per cent higher last winter than the year before. At the same time, he served notice that he expected "significant" plant disposals from the two companies.

"One little plant disposal is not going to be enough. Half of PowerGen's coal-fired capacity is where the regulator will start from and he will have to be talked down from there," said one source.

The East Midlands bid is part of two-pronged strategy to prop PowerGen into one of the world's biggest energy companies.

The other half of the strategy is to merge with Houston Industries of the US to create a £10bn transatlantic utility.

Some senior figures in the electricity industry believe the strategy could come unstuck, however, leaving PowerGen vulnerable to a bid itself.

### C&W in biggest-ever placing

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

CABLE & WIRELESS is preparing to invest up to £500m on new telephone cables in the US following its long-awaited acquisition of MCI, the US telecom operator for \$1.75bn (£1.07bn).

Robert Lerwill, C&W's finance director, said the company would need to install new lines to carry the volume generated by MCI's business, which carries about 30 per cent of US Internet traffic.

C&W is buying the technology which directs the traffic but not the lines that carry it. Although the company has a two-year agreement to use MCI's cables, it will eventually have to move the calls to its own lines.

Mr Lerwill said C&W would be laying new cables. However, on routes where there is plenty of spare capacity, the company

which raised £887m, is the largest ever to have been carried out on the London Stock Exchange. The shares closed down 2p at £40.

Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, said: "This is a tremendous opportunity for Cable & Wireless. It would take years to build a business like this."

MCI had originally planned to sell its wholesale op-

erations, which consists of the internet "backbone" that directs the traffic and 1,300 service providers who use MCI's network to access the internet.

However, regulators in Europe and the US forced MCI to also sell its retail internet business as a condition for agreeing to clear its \$37bn merger with WorldCom, the US telecom giant. As a result MCI is also transferring its 3,300 large multinational customers, 300,000 dial-up Internet users and a division which hosts web sites to C&W.

Mr Lerwill said the acquisition compared well to similar deals. C&W is paying 2.7 times the division's forecast 1998 sales, compared to multiples of three to six times revenues for other acquisitions. The division is expected to make sales of \$652m this year, up from \$244m in 1997.

The last time PowerGen at-

tempted to buy a regional elec-

tricity company,

it was referred to the

Monopolies and

Mergers Commissi-

on.

The tie-up would give Ladb

# An opportunistic placing from C&W

**CABLE & WIRELESS** yesterday became the latest telecommunications company to tap investors for cash, raising £887m through the largest ever placing of equity in the UK to help it pay for the internet businesses it has just taken over from MCI. On Tuesday, Colt Telecom unveiled plans to issue shares and convertible bonds worth £400m. TeleWest is raising £241m in a pre-emptive issue of equity. Even little Atlantic Telecom is getting in on the act, raising two-thirds of its current market value in a £50m placing. Plainly we have something of a trend here.

This is not supposed to happen in the debt-loving 1990s. The new mantra of shareholder value dictates that equity is an expensive commodity which should be guarded jealously. Instead, companies should load up their balance sheets with nice, cheap debt.

Most large companies have responded dutifully to the call by gearing up their balance sheets with share buybacks or by paying out special dividends. But in the soaring telecom sector, the appetite for equity is such that institutions are practically barging the door down when any become available. Yesterday C&W's brokers had dis-



## OUTLOOK

tributed all the shares within 40 minutes of the market opening.

This raises two questions. First, should not C&W have offered the shares by way of rights given the size of the issue, the level of demand and the 40p discount to the market price? Second, did it really need to raise the money at all? MCI was a forced seller of its internet business, allowing C&W to pick up the assets at an extremely favourable price. Having recently sold a number of substantial assets, C&W's balance sheet hardly looks overstretched.

A wider question is whether any of this new capital is capable of earning a decent return. It's not hard, given present starry-eyed

valuations in the telecoms sector, to see why companies are taking the opportunity to raise cash. But once this money has all been turned into fibre-optic cable and sunk into the ground, will there be enough demand for telephone or internet services to make it all worthwhile? For the time being nobody is prepared to believe their won't be.

## Controversy over TeleWest

**C&W'S MAMMOTH** share placing isn't the only telecoms equity issue to be raising eyebrows. In April TeleWest, the cable TV company, announced plans to raise £241m via the rarely-used mechanism of a pre-emptive issue of shares. What this means is that although existing TeleWest shareholders have the right to subscribe on a pro-rata basis, they aren't automatically entitled to the shares as they would be in a normal rights issue.

If they don't subscribe, the rights go to the underwriters, including any value contained in them. In a normal rights issue, the rights are sold in the market and any value returned to the

shareholders to whom they belong.

Obviously, the pre-emptive, or "clawback", method being applied with TeleWest is a highly contentious way of going about any equity issue. In the TeleWest case it has become doubly so since the underwriters are the company's three main corporate shareholders - TCI, US West and Cox Communications - and the shares now trade at more than double the cost of the rights. The rights are therefore worth a considerable sum of money.

This is not what was meant to happen. It is as if equity is being placed on favourable terms with the privileged few, since unless shareholders actively take steps to apply for the issue, it will all end up to these big three corporate investors. On the face of it, such an outcome would be a breach of accepted City rules.

So how was this extraordinary situation allowed to develop? When Schröders, TeleWest's advisers, first sounded out the City about a rights issue to fund the purchase of General Cable, they were told to get lost; investors had had enough of the bombed out cable sector and nobody wanted to know. It was impossible to do a rights issue except on a

deeply discounted basis, which with the shares already so low didn't seem appropriate. So Schröders went the pre-emptive route at what was then a premium to the prevailing stock market price. In other words, there was no value in the issue at that stage.

Then disaster. To the embarrassment of all involved, the General Cable purchase has taken much longer than anticipated to consummate. In the meantime, the stock market has fallen in love with anything to do with telecoms, even those miserable old cable companies, and TeleWest shares have soared. It is not fair to blame TeleWest or Schröders for something they could not have expected. In the circumstances, however, the least they might do is write to shareholders reminding them to apply.

## Why Brits don't invest in stocks

**MORGAN STANLEY** Dean Witter has come armed with an impressive array of statistics to show how under-invested in stocks and shares we all are over here compared with the

folks back home in launching American-style "no load" mutual funds on to the UK market.

Here are a few of them. More than 40 per cent of households in the US invest in mutuals, against just 7 per cent of British households in their UK equivalent, unit trusts. In the US, the amount invested in mutual funds is larger than that left on deposit in banks. In the UK, it is less than a third. In theory, then, there's a huge potential market out there just waiting to be tapped. The question is whether the British appetite for direct investment in the stock market is as great as that of the US.

Morgan Stanley cites a number of reasons why it might become so. For starters, British unit trusts have deterred investors by charging too much. Its own funds are being launched with no initial charge, no exit charge, no spread, and for actively managed funds, a very competitive annual management fee. In point of fact Morgan Stanley is just capturing an already established trend here, since most fund management groups have been moving in this direction for some years now. All the same, American fund management groups are right to claim high charges have in the past been a deterrent.

However, there is one major difference between the US and Europe that won't be so easily bridged. The vast majority of mutual funds are sold in the States through brokerages, of which there is at least one in every town, however small. There is no comparable distribution network in Europe, nor is there the same culture of retail investment in the stock market. Morgan Stanley is right to think things are changing, but it will be a long time before every household in the country will be turning to the managed fund pages of the newspapers every morning before tucking into their cornflakes.

## IN BRIEF

### Robert Dyas taken off market

**ROBERT DYAS**, the high street ironmonger, has been taken off the market after no suitable offers were received.

The company, which was put up for sale in March, said expressions of interest had been received from a number of parties, but the board had decided they did not reflect the true value of the business.

The board will now continue its work to improve profitability after a fire destroyed the company's main warehouse last Christmas, the company said.

### Pickard's post

**SIR MICHAEL PICKARD**, former chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, is to succeed Sir Norman Fowler as chairman of the National House-Building Council for a term of three years. He has experience of both large and small organisations and the private and public sectors, having served as managing director of Trust Houses in the early 1970s, deputy chief executive of the Imperial Group in the 1980s, and built up the Happy Easter chain of restaurants between 1972 and 1986.

**Pension reprieve** TWELVE LIFE insurers were yesterday given a reprieve from government attacks over their handling of the £15bn pension mis-selling review.

**Helen Liddell**, the economic secretary to the Treasury, said the companies had met their targets for reviewing urgent cases of possible mis-selling. The companies are Prudential, United Assurance, Barclays Life, Lloyds TSB, Midland Bank, Commercial Union, Norwich Union, Royal & SunAlliance, Guardian, Britannic Assurance, Axa Equity & Law and Godwins.

**Fraud uncovered** A FRAUD uncovered by Sears in the due diligence process relating to the demerger of Selfridges amounted to less than £5,000. Sears admitted that it had called in private investigators to examine the case and that two employees had been dismissed as a result.

However, the company said the sum was so small that it was not included in the demerger documents. Sears shareholders meet today to vote on the demerger of the Selfridges department store business. Sears has been criticised for combining the demerger resolution with another on an incentive scheme for Selfridges' directors.

**Funds launched** **MORGAN STANLEY** Dean Witter, the US investment giant, yesterday unveiled investment funds with no initial charges as part of its assault on the UK's retail savings market. The bank launched three funds with no up-front charges and no exit penalties. Morgan Stanley claimed its charges were 50 per cent lower than most British unit trusts.

## News Analysis: A double-your-money incentive for executives may prove too generous for investors

# All gain and no pain for Diageo directors

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

THE FAT CATS are at the cream again and the watchdogs are barking. Some City institutions are smarting over a new bonus scheme for top executives of Diageo, the Johnny Walker, Smirnoff vodka, Häagen-Dazs ice cream and Burger King restaurant group, which appears to be of "the heads we win, tails we don't lose" variety.

It has been unveiled this week for approval at the group's annual meeting on 11 August and is designed to richly reward 1,000 executives of Diageo. It will double their annual pay with an issue of free shares if the group's performance rises to 5th in a "peer group" of 20 top international brand companies such as Coca-Cola, McDonalds, Colgate-Palmolive and Unilever.

If the group gives an average performance in that group, executives will get still 50 per cent of their pay in bonus shares, but if it falls below that level they will get no bonus.

The bonuses could be paid annually over eight years from the year 2000 and the twin yardsticks of performance will be the Diageo share price and dividends.

The share price in 2000 will be compared with that of three years earlier - the second half of 1997 when Diageo was born from the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan and its shares were languishing in the \$50-600p range, compared with

the current level around 770p. Diageo has not costed the scheme, but it could clearly run to tens of millions of pounds a year since the pay of the eight board members who qualify ranges from £300,000 to £730,000. Its executives will have to identify with Diageo by buying shares themselves to give them "a significant stake", equal to their annual pay. But there appear to be no penalties, other than missing out on bonus shares if the group gives a below-average performance.

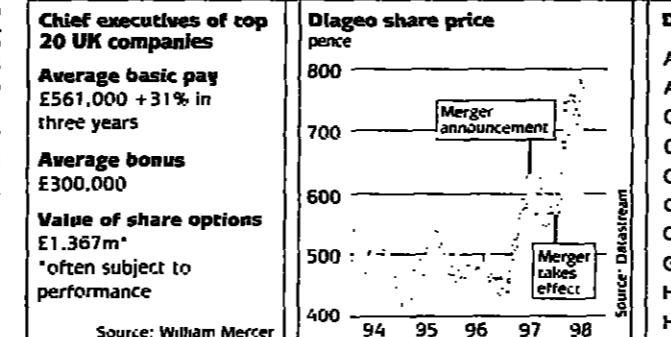
Diageo claims this is the best way of identifying the interests of directors with those of shareholders, as required by the Greenbury report, and points out the "peer group" it has chosen is a demanding list of international consumer giants. Neither of Diageo's merger partners would have made the top 10 in the eight years before their merger.

Diageo says the scheme has been launched this week after "full and thorough consultation" with institutional shareholders and most are happy with it. But many institutions who have had their first glimpse of it this week say they expect more consultation, are shocked that it is so generous, and would like it amended.

Some are considering voting against it at the Diageo annual



### EXECUTIVES' INCENTIVES



The bonus scheme proposed by Diageo's joint chairmen, Sir George Bull (left) and Tony Greener, will meet opposition in the City. The generous payouts are justified on the grounds that products like Häagen-Dazs ice cream, Burger King restaurants and Johnny Walker whisky are competing with top international brands - and highly paid US executives

meeting next month and point out that other companies, such as the electrical giant GEC, have been persuaded to amend bonus schemes for directors.

A survey by the global actuary and benefit consultant William Mercer, published today on the third anniversary of the Greenbury report, shows the size of the problem. It says UK directors' pay has rocketed way ahead of inflation over the past three years and bonuses typically top 50 per cent of basic pay, while share option gains have soared on the back of the booming stock market.

It says the current basic pay

of chief executives in the top 20 quoted companies has risen 31 per cent to £561,000 since 1995, while price inflation has been 15 per cent and average wage inflation 15 per cent. Average bonuses have reached £300,000, 53 per cent on top of basic pay, and average share option awards are worth £1.37m.

The gap between top executives and the rest of us is likely to widen, says Mercer. "Comparisons with trends in the US suggest that over the next three years directors' pay will accelerate further." Expect large bonuses and greater emphasis on share options.

American models are usually quoted to justify fat cat schemes, because top British companies are competing in world markets with US giants. Although the Greenbury report was a response to a public outcry against fat cat pay, it wanted executive pay linked more closely to their company's performance.

The Mercer report points out that basic pay of top US executives is higher, though not much higher at an average of £732,000, but bonuses are much bigger and share options are "beyond UK directors' dreams." They range up to £400m in the case of

## Hemmings raises stake in Vymura

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

**TREVOR HEMMINGS**, the former Scottish & Newcastle director who made his fortune out of the Pontins holiday camps, took his stake in the wallpaper group Vymura International to 22.3 per cent yesterday, fuelling speculation about a possible bid.

Mr Hemmings has been building a stake in the company for some time, but yesterday's disclosure that he had picked up an additional 3 per cent prompted the company to seek clarification of his intentions.

However Mr Hemmings, who holds the stake through Guild Ventures, could not be contacted. "We are watching the situation with interest," Vymura said.



Hemmings: purchase has fuelled bid speculation

cream and racecourses. His privately-controlled TJH business made £8m profits last year and is worth around £100m.

**THE CHANCELLOR'S** spending review this week has reversed seven years of cuts in the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) budget, in a big vote of confidence for the once-derided agency, it emerged yesterday. The SFO's budget fell from £21m in 1992/93 to £15.5m in 1998/99, but will rise to £17m for 1999/2000. The new figure is contained in the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review, which was announced too late to be included in the SFO's 10th annual report published yesterday.

The SFO's budget fell from £21m in 1992/93 to £15.5m in 1998/99, but will rise to £17m for 1999/2000. The new figure is contained in the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review, which was announced too late to be included in the SFO's 10th annual report published yesterday. The cash boost is a victory for the SFO and its director, Rosalind Wright. The agency, founded to combat high-profile

fraud cases, was savagely criticised when it failed to secure convictions in cases such as the second Guinness case and the trial of the Maxwell brothers, Kevin and Ian. But talk of abolishing the multidisciplinary agency, which combines police, lawyers and accountants, has lessened as its conviction rate has risen.

SFO figures show that in the year to April it concluded 14 trials in which 37 out of 39 accused were convicted. All principal defendants were convicted. It now has 78 cases under investigation or before the court.

Presenting the report, Ms Wright warned yesterday that fraud cases were using up too much of Britain's legal aid budget because of the length of time complex cases take to try.

"More tightly focused cases ... and firmly-controlled trials ... will go a long way towards getting cases to court more quickly and disposing of them efficiently and expeditiously," Ms Wright said.

The director said the SFO would use information technology to improve its efficiency and pointed to fraudsters taking advantage of international jurisdictional boundaries as a growing problem.

"In the future the unregulated Internet ... will be used to great effect by fraudsters," she said. Noting that the Internet is increasingly used as an international sales medium, Ms Wright said such problems could only be tackled effectively by increased international co-operation.

In the year covered by the report, the SFO successfully prosecuted a sixth case arising from the 1991 collapse of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), cases of corruption concerning former directors of Landhirst Leasing and a bribery case involving the former chairman of British Bus.

The report said that the SFO accepted 16 new cases for investigation during the year.



# British Biotech faces setbacks over two key drugs

BRITISH BIOTECH, the drugs company yesterday warned that the development of two of its star drugs could be derailed by regulators because of the actions of Andrew Millar, its sacked director of clinical trials.

The company admitted that it could be forced to scrap its anti-pancreatitis drug Zactex and delay research on the anti-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

cancer treatment Marimastat by around six months if US and European authorities reject the results of two clinical trials.

Dr Millar lifted the secrecy of the trials – a procedure known as “unblinding” – in November 1996 because he was concerned that the company had been

overoptimistic on the chances of success of the drugs. He was later sacked for disclosing his fears to leading shareholders and is now locked in a legal battle with the company.

The US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Evaluation Agency have to decide whether the unauthorised unblinding jeopardised the studies’ conclusions.

The company said yesterday that “it is possible that the regulatory authorities will not accept the data generated by these studies as pivotal data” – the key data for regulatory approval.

The warning came as British Biotech plunged further into the red with a 58 per cent rise in its 1997/98 pre-tax loss to £44.5m,

a loss largely expected by the market. The company’s shares, which have had an abysmal run since the onset of the Millar saga, closed unchanged at 32.5p.

Malcolm Fallon, British Biotech’s finance director, said an external audit of the trials showed that the impact of Dr Millar’s actions on the trials was minimal as most of his findings were not disclosed to researchers carrying out the studies.

Mr Fallon said a negative response from the regulators would mean that the company “would have to sit down and think” whether to proceed with the Zactex trials. He said “it is not impossible” the drug would be scrapped altogether.

Marimastat’s development would be delayed by around six months, but there is no question of abandoning it as the company has 11 continuing trials not affected by Dr Millar’s unblinding, said Mr Fallon.

Meanwhile Peter Lewis, British Biotech’s former director of research and development, rejected Dr Millar’s claims that he had acted “treacherously” by withholding Dr Millar’s concerns over the two drugs from the board.

Dr Lewis told *The Independent* that in a written submission to MPs investigating the affair he said he was not aware of the results of the unblinded trials and denied that he had behaved improperly.

## Chip war forces Siemens shake-up

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE GERMAN electronics and engineering company, Siemens, yesterday unveiled plans for a sweeping shake-up after issuing a profits warning and forecasting losses of more than DM1bn (£340m) this year in its semiconductor business.

The overhaul will involve the disposal of some divisions, the divestment of others, the imposition of more rigorous financial and productivity targets and a review of semiconductor production which could lead to cutbacks at its 1.1bn semiconductor plant on Tyneside.

Siemens also outlined plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its share capital, seek a listing on the New York Stock Exchange in 2001 and switch to American accounting standards.

The core of the group’s problems is the semiconductor business, which has been hit by a savage price war in the past 12 months. This has resulted in chip prices plummeting by as much as 50 per cent.

But the Siemens chief executive, Heinrich Pierer, also warned that there were “acute problems” in three other divisions – power generation, transportation and private communication networks. Together with semiconductors, these businesses account for a third of Siemens’s worldwide sales.

Mr Pierer said Siemens

would not meet its target this year of growing profits faster than sales. In the first nine months of the year sales grew by 15 per cent to DM82bn, while net income rose by only 5 per cent to DM1.78bn.

“I am completely dissatisfied with our earnings. The present stock market value of Siemens shares also reflects investor dissatisfaction,” said Mr Pierer.

The immediate task will be to cut semiconductor output in response to the “ruinous” price competition in memory chips and focus more on production of logic chips.

Apart from the Tyneside plant, Siemens makes memory chips at four other locations – Dresden, France, Taiwan and the US. Sources said that cutbacks at the Tyneside plant, which employs 1,100 people, could not be ruled out.

The overhaul will lead to a large restructuring charge in the fourth quarter. Mr Pierer did not specify how big the charge would be, or whether it would involve extensive redundancies amongst Siemens’s 400,000-strong worldwide workforce. But he said that part of the costs would be met by the DM400m of exceptional profit raised from asset sales this year, including the purchase of Siemens Defence by British Aerospace and the sale of its share in telecommunications joint venture GPT to GEC.

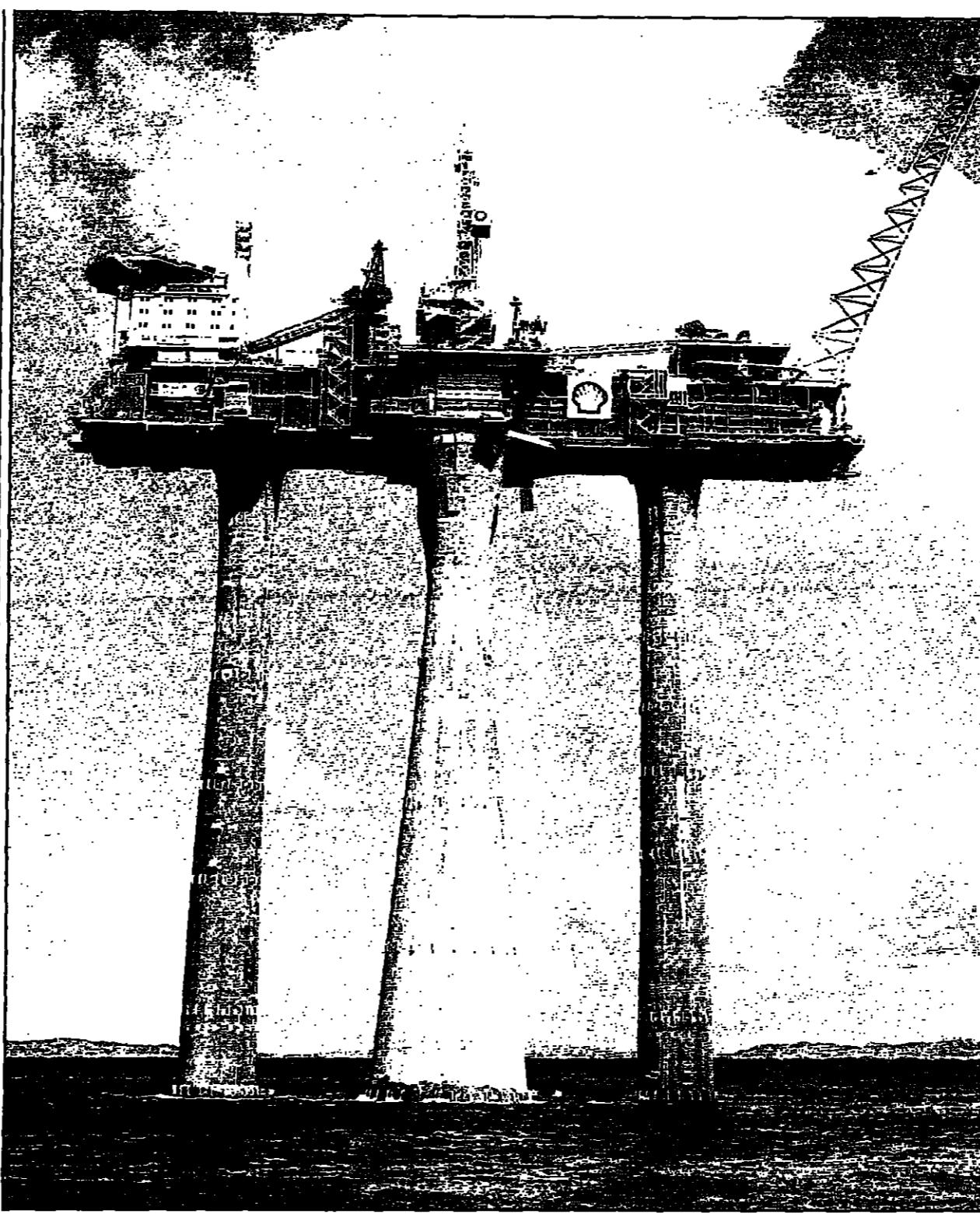
The power generation business has been hit by problems with a new generation of gas turbines which will leave it barely in profit this year.

Meanwhile, the private communications business has been hit by changes in the mobile telephone market and the transport business has been affected by the Asian economic downturn, which will result in the business posting higher losses this year.

In a drive to improve profitability, each business will have to achieve a return on capital of at least 8.5 per cent. Performance will be measured on a quarterly basis.



Heinrich Pierer: ‘Acute problems’ in divisions



Gas production in the North Sea will suffer under the Government’s power station restrictions, it is claimed

## Gas-fired ban ‘will cost jobs’

THE GOVERNMENT’S ban on further gas-fired power stations will cost 1,300 jobs and deprive it of £1.8bn in tax revenues, the North Sea industry warned yesterday.

A report from the UK Offshore Operators Association also forecast that the ban would reduce investment in new gas fields and exploration activity by £2.7bn.

The study, carried out for UKOOA by the consultants Arthur D Little, further estimated that £2bn worth of investment in power station capacity would be deferred by 2002.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

The Government’s energy review, published at the end of June, imposed a de facto moratorium on further gas-fired power stations in an attempt to even up the electricity generating market and create a level playing field for coal.

But it has been fiercely attacked by developers of gas-fired stations, led by the US group Enron, which intends to lobby Brussels and the Clinton administration to try to get the ban overturned.

Enron estimates that the

ban will add £1bn a year to electricity costs by forcing suppliers to buy more expensive coal-fired electricity.

The latest report will provide further ammunition. James May, UKOOA’s director general, said: “This report confirms our fears, voiced at the time of the Government announcement at the end of June, that continued restrictions on gas-fired power generation would have a serious impact on investment and jobs in the gas industry.

Arthur D Little estimates that 49 gas-fired stations with a total output of 23,000 megawatts are under construction or awaiting approval. It believes that 16 of these could be hit by the moratorium.

This could reduce demand for gas from North Sea fields by more than a billion cubic feet a day, resulting in the deferral of some new gas fields.

The study also suggests that the knock-on effects for employment could be a lot greater, since the 1,300 job losses do not include any indirect job losses among suppliers to the gas industry.

## Goshawk raises bid to buy out Lloyd’s names

THE BATTLE for control of Lloyd’s of London is set to intensify today as Goshawk, the dedicated Lloyd’s insurer, increases by a third the price it will pay to buy names out of the market.

Goshawk, a corporate insurer valued at £93m, will raise its offer to names on syndicate 102, countering allegations that names are being offered too little in exchange for leaving the market.

The company is expected to raise its offer from 15p to more than 20p for every £1 of business underwritten by syndicate 102, known for paying out £1.5m in connection with the IRA bomb which exploded in London Docklands in 1995.

The raised offer underlines

the rapid rise in the prices demanded by names in exchange for exiting the market. In 1996 Goshawk paid just 8p for every £1 of business underwritten.

Last year this was boosted to 15p, and the figure will shortly rise again: it has been topped in the last month by separate offers by Cox and Wellington, two of the largest corporate names at Lloyd’s.

Prices have risen especially quickly on syndicates which can earn high returns in exchange for high risks. Cox recently offered nearly 50p for every £1 of underwriting capacity on a syndicate which insures the UK’s nuclear industry.

The raised offer underlines

## M&S sales growth falls back

SALES GROWTH at Marks & Spencer slowed sharply last month, the chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, told the annual general meeting yesterday, writes Clifford German.

General merchandise sales were up 10.3 per cent year-on-year at the end of May and barely 5 per cent at the end of June.

While the number of names has shrunk from over 30,000 to fewer than 8,000 over the past six years, the remainder hanging on are seen as “hard core” names who are refusing to sell out soon.

Many members regard offers from corporate members as too low. They also accuse the corporates of making excessively gloomy warnings about prospects for the market in 1998.

The strength of sterling continues to reduce profits, especially in Europe but contrary to reports the group’s stocks are not excessive. Sir Richard said:

The cost of the expansion programme, including the purchase of 19 Littlewoods stores, will continue to affect profits this year and next before the benefits flow through in 1999-2000. Sir Richard warned.

## Hi-TEC’s solo run brings in higher profits

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

and profit before tax grew by 19 per cent to £3.7m.

The strength of sterling reduced turnover by £3m and profits by £150,000, but Hi-TEC was able to take advantage of the economic climate in Asia by renegotiating prices with its suppliers in China and Vietnam.

North American sales grew strongly and profits doubled to £3.1m, helped by the success of Adventure Racing, a series of televised team events involving cycling, kayak racing and running. Hi-TEC is also a major supplier of boots to US police, fire and emergency forces.

The UK and Ireland maintain profits at £3.2m on slightly lower sales of sports shoes, but Hi-TEC’s biggest reverse came in Continental Europe where sales were down 30 per cent and profits fell by three-quarters to just £329,000.

Sales in the rest of the world stood up reasonably well, although profits were down by 8 per cent. A new subsidiary in the Czech Republic was mainly responsible for a 10 per cent rise in stocks.

The shares rose 1.5p to 44.5p.

## Pension sales slump 20% at Axa Sun Life

BY ANDREW VERITY

AXA SUN LIFE, one of the UK’s five leading life insurance companies, yesterday blamed the Government for triggering a 20 per cent slump in its pension business in the first half of 1998.

The company said that delays in setting up a new computer system at the Department of Social Security had hit its sales hard because vital national insurance rebates could not be paid into pension schemes.

Axa Sun Life said the delays in setting up the DSS national insurance system, known as NIRS2, had reduced sales of lump-sum pension savings by £8m and would continue to hit business in the third quarter of the year.

The company revealed that sales of personal pensions – traditionally a staple product for Sun Life – had slumped by 20 per cent in the first half of 1998.

The results are a stark contrast to those of Britannic, the door-to-door life insurer, which yesterday reported that its new business had risen by 16 per cent.

## Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 17th July 1998 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum  
GROSS %\* GROSS\*  
C.A.R. %

### Business Interest Cheque Account

Instant Access Cheque Account	3.85	3.91
£250,000+	3.85	3.91
£100,000-249,999	3.40	3.44
£50,000-99,999	3.05	3.09
£10,000-49,999	2.65	2.68
£2,000-9,999	2.30	2.32
£1-1,999	1.20	1.21

### Schools Banking Account

5.30	5.41
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### Capital Reserve Account\*\*

£250,000+	6.05	6.19
£100,000-249,999	5.85	5.98
£50,000-99,999	5.60	5.72
£10,000-49,999	5.20	5.30
£2,000-9,999	4.70	4.78
£1-1,999	4.70	4.78

### Practice Call Account\*

5.65	5.77
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### Designated Clients Account

£100,000+	5.65	5.77
£50,000-99,999	5.45	5.56
£10,000-49,999	5.20	5.30
£2,000-9,999	4.15	4.22
£1-1,999	2.35	2.37

### Business Call Account

£250,000+	4.65	4.73





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52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Y.M.	P/E	Code	52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Y.M.	P/E	Code	52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Y.M.	P/E	Code		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	1,125.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	190.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	1,125.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	-	1998	1,125.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	-	1998
604 602 Absolut Vodka	880.00	820.00	820.00	820.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	880.00	820.00	820.00	820.00	-	1998	880.00	820.00	820.00	820.00	-	1998
425 225 Beefeater (P)	350.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	350.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	1998	350.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	1998
524 125 Gordon's	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998
507 725 Martini	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998
225 155 Martini Dark	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
DANKS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1335 715 Abbey Int	715.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	715.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	-	1998	715.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	-	1998
672 477 Balfour	180.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	180.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	-	1998	180.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	-	1998
1801 625 Bellhouse	1,175.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	1,175.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	-	1998	1,175.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	-	1998
1802 125 Bellhouse Div	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	1998
507 725 Bellhouse Inv	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998	200.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000	225	225.00	200.00	225.00	225	225.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998
225 155 Bellhouse Inv	195.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	1998	12.00	1000</td																				

# Strange goings-on end the advance

THAMES WATER, the biggest of the water companies, sprung a stock market leak. The shares dived 131p - 11.3 per cent - to 1,029p as caution from Morgan Stanley was compounded by mysterious late trades on the controversial order book.

The US investment house had Thames in retreat through most of the session after downgrading its stance on the shares to under perform. Analyst James Hutton-Mills said that although prospects remained good, the burst of enthusiasm which took the price to 1,160p in recent days was not justified.

For much of the day Thames, still the least leaky water company in the country according to Ofwat figures, drifted around 50p lower; then towards the close the fall yawned to 75p and, in the last minute, opened to 131p as deals at 1,029p were punched into the system.

At first Thames appeared to be the victim of maverick trades. One was for 10,000 shares but another, a portfolio trade for 184,700 shares, would indicate a frightening degree of recklessness if it was a rogue input. The portfolio trade was completed earlier in the day but was not

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

reported until the final minute. Another late trade, off the order book, was for 20,111 shares at 1,111p.

At the close only one buy order remained on screen and the spread was an absurd 98p.

Seven Trent was also caught by a late gush of trades which sent the shares tumbling 71p to 1,001p. Until the last minute of trading Seven Trent was around 1,035p.

Questions were also raised about the Safeway supermarket chain, off 32.5p to 352p. The last order book trade was at 352p, although some later trades were around 377p.

Asda was also caught in the flurry of late share deals. A rush of trades in the final five minutes left the shares 8p up to 214p. With the European Court ruling against cut-price designer goods, the Asda activity caught many on the hop, prompting talk of possible corporate action breaking out.

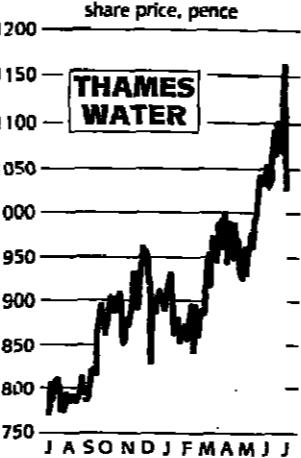
The confusing deals occurred as the stock market prepares for a shorter trading day. Because the order book is such a slow starter, with many trades held back until a clearer picture of the market is apparent, the start of trading has, from Monday, been put back 30 minutes to 9am.

It is hoped the change will give a greater depth to trading and tightened price spreads. With the closing being linked to the shutdown of Liffe, there are hopes that late trading confusion will be reduced.

Footsie, influenced by the strange goings-on in the three index constituents, fell 34.7 points to 6,116.8, ending a three-day winning streak which lifted the index by more than 200 points.

Equities started brightly enough, helped by firm Asian markets and

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datastream

Reuters remained depressed ahead of next week's interim figures, falling 22p to 622p. BG flared 12p higher to 387p following a £250m financing for an Italian gas-fired generators venture, but BT treated 10p to 307p despite rumours that Morgan Stanley had put a 910p target on the shares.

Casino shares were higher on the proposed gaming rules relaxation, with London Clubs International spinning 10.5p higher to 175.5p. Gaming machines groups prospered on the Government's decision to increase prizes and stakes; Crown Leisure rose 1.5p to 41.5p and Kinnick 1.25p to 31p. But the gamesome mood did not extend to Ladbrokes, the betting and hotel chain: the shares fell 5p to 318.5p on reports that its Coral takeover could be blocked.

Devro, down from 545p since a profits warning, held at 301p as house stockbroker BT Alex Brown put a buy tag on the shares.

Computer group Lyux climbed 9.5p to a 255p peak on Dresdner Kleinwort Benson support, and engineer TI rose 4p to 450p with Credit Lyonnais showing interest.

Hozelock, the garden equipment group, joined the list of profit warners, falling 44.5p to 212.5p. La Riche, the Channel Islands retail group, plunged 42.5p to 521p on a profits warning and Thorntons, the chocolate firm, melted 21p to 240.5p after indicating that margins were being squeezed.

Pariske, an investment group, firmed 25p to 320p after buying £125m of funds under management, bringing its total to £400m. More acquisitions are planned. Interim profits were £321,000 against £220,000.

Sketchley held at 29.5p. The sale of its retail operations was approved by shareholders. With the shops removed the rest of the group, capitalised at £28m, would appear to be undervalued.

Sleepy Kids' dismal run could be over. The Budgie Helicopter group is merging with interests related to entertainer Richard Dingle. The shares rose 2p to 14.5p. They were 117p four years ago.

SEAG VOLUME: 1.8 billion  
SEAG TRADES: 65,085  
GILTS INDEX: n/a

JOHN GUNN, the 1980s entrepreneur, continues to display a taste for West 175 Enterprises, specialising in cookery programmes for television. He has picked up a further 90,000 shares, lifting his stake to almost 7 per cent. West shares are 55p against a 130p high.

The group sells cookery programmes, mostly in the US, and has a joint venture with the BBC. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwood expects the company to come into profit next year - forecasting £420,000 against an expected £625,000 loss this year.

BOLTON International, a property group with Far Eastern interests, fell 0.75p to a 2.75p low. The company said it knew of no reason for the weakness.

The shares, which hit 37.75p four years ago, have been in steady retreat for the past 18 months. They have traded at around 3p for much of this year.

## WH Smith makes a slow start to summer

### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### WH SMITH: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.4bn, share price 546.5p (-3p)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£bn)	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.1
Pre-tax profits (£m)	83.4	100.9	(194.0)	51	267
Earnings per share (p)	19.9	23.9	(71.4)	8.6	79.2
Dividends per share (p)	15.4	10.7	15.6	15.6	16.75

Operating profit by division, £m	1997	1998
Wh Smith	8.02	8.02
UK News	8.02	8.02
US News	8.02	8.02
US Books	8.02	8.02
Wh Books	8.02	8.02
Other	8.02	8.02

Share price pence	1997	1998
1997	500	500
1998	500	500
1999	500	500
2000	500	500

#### Soaring pound hits paper group

DAVID S SMITH took a real pounding last year. As the German mark collapsed from DM2.51 to DM2.93 against sterling, the paper and packaging group, which has a third of its business in continental Europe, saw overseas sales reduced while cheap imports flooded into its home market.

After the clear-out of unwanted businesses, Smith's is now a much simpler operation. The sale of Waterstone's and The Wall, the US music business, resulted in an exceptional gain of £1.35m. Stripping out exceptions, underlying profits rose by 15 per cent to £1.3m.

The core Smith's chain performed well, with like-for-like sales up a creditable 5 per cent. The increase was led, the company says, by good performances in magazines and computer games as well as the effects of its loyalty card.

But there was mixed news elsewhere. Market fears that a recent management reshuffle in America might suggest poor trading were confirmed. Profits at the US travel business were flat at £10m. Figures were hit by fewer travellers because of the Asian crisis but also by some one-off nasties such as a £1.5m provision on an airport contract.

The Menzies chain, acquired for £88m in May, contributed a £2m loss, while profits at Virgin-Our Price, sold to the Virgin group for £145m after the year-end, rose from £14m to £16m.

On analysts' forecasts of

£133m this year, the shares trade on a forward multiple of just under 14. About right.

The strong pound, which Smith accepts is "not something we can control", accounts for virtually all of the fall. Every 1-pfennig drop in the sterling exchange rate costs the group around £1m, so that alone lopped £42m off profits.

The group also took a £2m exceptional hit on a Far Eastern associate, while its aborted takeover of the Dutch paper maker Kappa cost as much again.

The company is signalling a modest recovery this year if the pound does no more damage.

The mark has stabilised and Smith's main European markets, Germany and France, are a lot more buoyant.

Prices could recover by up to 12 per cent, and benefits from cost control and investment programmes are flowing through.

That said, restructuring charges will depress profits and if the pound rises further all bets are off. Brokers are

looking for profits of around £58m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 14. A low enough rating to justify shareholders hanging on, but hardly a good case for others to consider buying.

#### Atlantic's radio signal is strong

MENTION THE words "fixed radio access" and most investors will run a mile. That was the idea behind Ionica, the telecom firm which has gone from flotation to near bankruptcy in just over a year. But Atlantic Telecom, which is rolling out a similar service in Scotland, has proved that the concept can work. Indeed, it yesterday announced plans to tap shareholders for £50m - two-thirds of its current market value. It has also arranged a £60m debt facility.

The model is simple: rather than dig up the roads, Atlantic bypasses British Telecom's network by installing base stations around a city. Every customer then has a radio antenna fitted on his roof, which transmits and receives calls to and from the base station. By offering two lines for the price of one and cheaper calls, Atlantic has picked up almost 18,000 customers.

Atlantic is raising the cash to complete its network in Glasgow while extending the service to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee. The plans also allow for a £10m upgrade to Atlantic's cable TV operation in Aberdeen, allowing it to offer combined telephone and digital television packages.

In the year to March, Atlantic's pre-tax losses increased to £9.5m from £2.99m. But, assuming it can get a market penetration of, say, 10 per cent without having to cut its prices too drastically, it should make a profit in three years time.

Given that Atlantic may eventually extend the service to cities outside Scotland, the shares, up 6.5p to 156.5p yesterday, look a decent long-term punt.

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## PwC is counting the beans again

### IN BRIEF

#### Growth slowing, warns Thorntons

THORNTONS, the quoted chain of chocolate shops, has joined the growing list of firms warning that sales growth is slowing. Total sales are rising rapidly as new stores open, but like-for-like sales rose by 9.6 per cent in the year to the end of June. In the second half growth was down to 6.5 per cent.

The group continues to close franchised outlets and open stores it owns, where sales and profits are higher. A new £14m warehouse and distribution centre is being built near Derby to handle expansion. The shares closed 21p down at 240.5p.

#### Fall at Banks

PROFITS AT the agricultural merchants, Sidney C Banks, fell 25 per cent to £3.07m in the year to the end of April, although turnover edged higher. The chairman, AC Mitchell-Innes, blamed the poor UK cereal harvest in 1997, the drop in farming confidence and incomes and fluctuations in the pound/Dutchmark exchange rate.

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### LOOKING AT

PriceWaterhouseCoopers' blood-curdling warnings this week about the Chancellor's spending plans, I am reminded of when Coopers & Lybrand, a former incarnation of the accountancy firm, developed a model of the public finances for *The Independent* in the run-up to the 1992 General Election.

Coopers declared that Labour's spending plans under the late John Smith didn't add up. This ignited a political furore and the bean counters at Coopers, suitably chastened, retreated back under their stone.

The *Indy* again approached Coopers before the 1997 poll to do a similar audit on the parties' spending plans, but Coopers refused, presumably on the "once bitten, twice shy" principle.

Now this week the newly merged PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has thrown caution to the winds and warned that Britain will plunge £20bn into the red if the economy doesn't keep up with Gordon Brown's growth estimates.

How long will this new-found bravado last? Whatever happens, I'm sure the Chancellor's spin doctor, Charlie Wh

## SPORT

Tennis: The scramble for ranking points can mean tournaments with no cameras, few spectators and little glamour

## Challenge of life after Wimbledon

By GUY HODGSON

THE NO-WAITING comes lining Palatine Road were tributes to hope rather than expectation. There was a dilemma parking at the Manchester Challenger this week, but it revolved around which space you would fill. For this was tennis in Britain without the Pimms and strawberries. Most of all it lacked the magic word, Wimbledon.

In SW19 Mark Petchey would fill a show court, at the Northern Lawn Tennis Club he began his match against Kyle Edmund with just nine people present. The dark, menacing clouds did not help but even a heat-wave would not have dispelled the sense of afterthought. The circus had left town and just a few acrobats and the truly dedicated watchers remain.

The star act, Pete Sampras, departed the All England Club with a cheque for £435,000 in his pocket; the winner at Manchester on Sunday will receive little more than £4,000. The players are not 100 times worse than the American, but they are 100 times poorer, which underlines the narrow margin between struggling to spend what you earn and simply struggling.

The Challenger series, an underclass of tournaments below the main ATP Tour, is the refuge for boys who hope to make it and men who have been there and come back. The latter carry the air of faded grandeur, which is appropriate at an event which has also seen better days.

Scan the list of former champions and it reads like a tennis Who's Who: Sedgeman, Rosewall, Hoad, Connors, McEnroe and Edberg (twice) among them. But they belong to a time when the Northern was part of Wimbledon's build-up, BBC cameras, Dan Maskell and all. Now the Nottingham Open has supplanted it in the calendar and Manchester comes after the main event. The winner last year was Spain's Oscar Burrieta, who is not even a big name in his home town of Lugo. Enough said.

How you approach events like these depends on your mindset. Petchey, 27, was once the 80th best player in the world and when he looked at the empty seats and the overcast skies the image in his mind was one of loss. Chris Wilkinson, eight months older than his fellow Briton, saw only an opportunity to gain.

His rank is heading back to his career best of 114 five years ago and in a world where your position on the computer is the *raison d'être* for your professional existence, that is incentive enough. You can wipe out the empty stands and the lack of atmosphere.

The litany of his ambition is read and recited by every tennis pro: points, ranking, tournaments, money, life. The more you have of the first the better you do in the rest. "My motivation to get points," Wilkinson said. "There's a chance to get 60 here and that can take me towards my goal of getting in the world's top 100, which I've never achieved. It's not a problem going on court at all."



Chris Wilkinson (left) and Mark Petchey pass each other on a sparsely populated Centre Court at the Manchester Men's Challenger tournament in Didsbury

Peter Jay

That last sentence illustrates the difference between him and Petchey, who comes across as a man thoroughly cheeched off with the life. Not with tennis, he still loves that, but with the lack of progress despite the hard work. He has been in the top 100 and that makes languishing in the neither regions an onerous chore. So much so he is considering retirement.

After this week and other Challengers he will take a step back and decide whether to go on and the smart money is on a full stop. "The position is the same as it was at Wim-

bledon," he said. "My mind's pretty well made up. I need to get away from tennis really because when you are involved it's hard to look at things properly."

For two and half years Petchey, from Essex, eked a full-time existence in the rarefied atmosphere of the ATP Tour, rubbing shoulders with Sampras et al, but he now spends two-thirds of his time on the Challenger circuit. "It's chalk and cheese comparing Wimbledon and here," he said. "The pressures, the expectation, the calibre of player you meet are completely different. Wim-

bledon is the icing on the cake for all of us, this is our bread and butter."

Or in his case, something less substantial than that. "I didn't come here for any financial reasons, whatsoever. I have a clothing contract with Reebok, but apart from that I pay for everything myself. I've done so for the last eight years."

"At Wimbledon you get wild cards and that brings in money for travel, but it's a very expensive sport to play professionally. One year, for example, I spent around £2,000 on string wire."

"It may seem a glamorous life. You see Wimbledon and the prize-money cheques but in reality that makes up a very small proportion of the time for the majority of the guys. For long periods you are treading water."

Even the upbeat Wilkinson subscribes to that. At Wimbledon he reached the third round for the fourth time in his career, but last week he went out in the first round at Bristol. That sort of result makes you want to smash your rackets against the nearest wall.

"I get very tired after Wim-

bledon," he said. "For three or four days I'm just knackered, more mentally than physically. It's the hanging around, talking to people. It's very wearing. The place is uplifting, but it also intimidates because I have done well in the past and there is some expectation."

"Losing last week was frustrating. You do well at Wimbledon against top 20 players, then you go out in the first round at Bristol. That becomes infuriating because you know you are capable of better."

So does Petchey. "I'm still young but I've been out here for a hundred

years now and it's a tough life. You've really got to want to succeed. Winning is everything. If you win you feel good, if you lose you feel terrible. That's the way of any sportsman's life."

As he finished his match, the crowd at the Northern's Centre Court had swelled to around 200, but they were still locked in stands built to hold four times that. "This is not bad," Petchey said. "I've played matches in other countries in front of absolutely nobody."

Welcome to the glamorous world of a tennis professional.

## Three warned after drug tests

## RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWITT

IT BARRELY registered a blip on the Ben Johnson scale of drug scandals, but English rugby yesterday suffered its first uncomfortable brush with the greatest scourge of this sporting age. Three Premiership forwards, including Martin Hynes of Northampton, were handed severe cautions by the Rugby Football Union's disciplinary tribunal for breaching anti-doping regulations last season.

Hynes, the 29-year-old former Oriel prop who sat on the England bench throughout the 1992 Grand Slam campaign before slipping down the national rankings, tested positive

for pseudoephedrine, a prescribed stimulant, after a game with Sale in February. According to the player's doctor, who made a statement to the tribunal, Hynes had been suffering from a chest infection and took the decongestant Sudafed before the match.

According to Bob Rogers, the tribunal chairman, Hynes was unaware that his medication was on the banned list. "He told us he would never knowingly contravene the drug or anti-doping rules and apologised for the unfortunate incident," Rogers said yesterday.

Steve Pearce, the Bristol loose forward, also took Sudafed before his side's Premiership match with London Irish five months ago while Richard Gibbons, a prop forward

from Exeter, tested positive for a different stimulant, ephedrine, after a match with Orrell in March. Gibbons, an asthmatic, had bought non-prescription relief tablets from his local chemist without realising they contained a banned substance.

If Wales could obtain an international-class coach over the counter, they would save themselves a lot of trouble. As it is, they must continue scouring the earth. The Welsh Rugby Union's technical committee met yesterday to discuss potential replacements for Kevin Bowring, who left his post after the 50-point hiding by France in April, and it was still unclear whether Graham Henry, the highly respected Auckland coach, was in or out of the Red Dragons' frame.

Word from New Zealand, where Henry has long been seen as one possible successor to John Hart on the All-Black throne, suggested there was next to no possibility of Wales landing their man. However, the Welsh were continuing to discuss his merits yesterday along with those of the Natal and former Springbok coach Ian McIntosh, and were hoping to make a definitive announcement as early as this afternoon.

Bath, the European champions, have reacted to some depressing failures on the transfer front by adding two promising youngsters, Gareth Cooper and Steve Borthwick, to their senior squad. Cooper, a 19-year-old scrum-half from Pencoed, has already played senior Sevens rugby for



Martin Hynes: Took Sudafed

## Timely return for British four

## ROWING

By HUGH MATHESON

THE BRITISH team dispersed yesterday to a variety of training camps after the selections for the World Championships in Cologne from 6-13 December were announced.

The coxless four of the Olympic champions, Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, along with James Cracknell and the now fully restored Tim Foster, came back to form in impressive style at Lucerne last weekend. They dispatched a distinguished field, which had threatened early in the season to topple them from their top spot in the world.

While Foster was injured two months ago, the crew were beaten by Romania and West Germany in Munich, but the British four came together to win at Henley and in Lucerne. Now they train for Cologne in the comfort that only the United States are an unknown quantity.

The women's coxless pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, in contrast, raced well all season, winning in Munich and Lucerne. However, they fell back in the headwind at Lucerne, possibly after so much hard racing. But as winners of the World Cup, they will go to Cologne believing they are worth a medal on their normal form.

Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay in the women's double scull won world championship silver a year ago, but have missed all but one regatta this year, although that second in Belgium was close to their old form.

The men's team has a new pair of Fred Scarlett and Steve Williams, who, with a fourth at Munich and a fifth at Lucerne, will set their sights on the final as a springboard for Sydney. The men's eight must also wonder what is to come from the 1997 champions, the United States, but have much opportunity for improvement with six weeks of training.

The lightweight Peter Haining returns in the single scull after his search for a double sculls partner and a place in the Sydney team, has once again been fruitless. He will contest the single event again, after his 1996 debut in Lucerne, at the British National Championships this weekend at Strathclyde.

Greg Scullie was yesterday upset after his brother, Jonny, was left out of the team. The single sculler believed the other half of his 1992 Olympic gold medal coxed pair would have been up to standard in the last six weeks before the championships.

"Jonny and I have been in this position, and it is not unfamiliar, but what we do is improve dramatically before a major championship," Scullie said. "Fortunately, I have been given the chance to prove myself, but it is disappointing that Jonny has not."

The British selectors decided that the quadruple sculler had not improved at a sufficient rate to warrant a place in Cologne.

## Aston back as the roadshow rolls on

## RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

MARK ASTON, the influential Sheffield Eagles scrum-half, is set to return for the second of Super League's roadshow games tonight, his reappearance against Halifax at Northampton adding further weight to Sheffield's push for a top five place.

"We have had to learn to play without Mark," the Eagles' coach, John Kear, said. "We have done that and are a better side as a result, but having him back gives us new alternatives."

Aston, Sheffield's man of the match in their victory at Wembley in May, has spent two months out of the game after damaging his hand in a domestic accident. He is likely to start in place of Marcus Vassilopoulos, who has a knee injury.

Halifax, the surprise team of the first half of the season, have Kelvin Skerrett back from suspension and Martin Pearson from injury. Both are in the Wales squad to meet England at Widnes on Sunday, two of the 11 Sheffield and Halifax players involved in that international.

It is debatable, therefore, who will

be watching tonight's game more anxiously: Sunday's coaches, Andy Goodway and Clive Griffiths, or Super League's executives.

The innovation of taking matches around the country started poorly last Friday at Gateshead, where even the modest, declared crowd of 4,122 prompted sceptics to wonder whether a couple of digits had been reversed. Northampton's Sixfields Stadium is cosier than Gateshead, but there is concern that another low crowd could further dent the credibility of the exercise.

The Wakefield Trinity coach, Andy

Kelly, is to face a League inquiry into claims that he assaulted a steward after his side's defeat at Featherstone on Wednesday. Trouble flared when the steward tried to stop Kelly vaulting over a wall at the end of the match and was allegedly head-butted.

"We are conducting an inquiry into an alleged incident which took place at Featherstone," the League's spokesman, Dave Callaghan, said. "It would not be fair to pre-judge the matter until we have the full facts in front of us. We are waiting for reports from the referee and the fourth official."

Kelly, whose side remains top of the First Division despite that defeat, could be called before the League's operational board next week, if it is found that he has a case to answer.

Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of the Rugby League, has hinted that he might stay on after the clubs agreed to accept a new television contract and keep open the prospect of promotion to Super League.

It was also decided that the overs seas quota for Super League clubs will stay at five, but will drop to two for other divisions. Alliance rugby will be Under-21 only, and the age limit for the Academy League will drop to 18.

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# Brown provides veritable feast

By DAVID LLEWELLYN  
at Guildford

**Surrey 150 and 335-8**  
Middlesex 115

AFTER THE famine, the feast. And by comparison with the first day's fare that was served up at the Woodbridge Road ground yesterday it was a veritable banquet. Chief provider was Alistair Brown, as he had been in the first innings.

There is a tiresome and inaccurate perception of Brown as a slogger. This is not helped by his propensity to play crowd-pleasing, match-winning innings in one-day cricket, a perfect example being his destructive, record-breaking double hundred against Hampshire on this very ground in a Sunday League match last year.

But to see him in one dimension would be a travesty. The benchmark of quality batsman in the first-class game is generally accepted as maintaining an average of 40. Brown's career average going into the second innings here was more than 43.

Here he has top-scored in both Surrey innings, each time passing 50 and on both occasions he has harnessed his awesome power-play to the twin beasts of maturity and commonsense. When the ball was to be hit he did not stint himself, but he knew when to leave well alone.

The pity of it was that Brown fell on the penultimate ball of the day lbw to Richard Johnson after more than three hours, leaving behind the memory of a sweetly swept six and nine hard-hit fours. He had been content

to play second fiddle when he emerged to partner his captain, Adam Hollioake, for the fourth wicket. Hollioake played equally responsibly as he passed 50 in the championship for only the second time this season.

Surrey had begun the day with a 35-run first-innings advantage. The premature loss of Mark Butcher, desperate to score runs in order to get back into the England team, did not knock them off their stride.

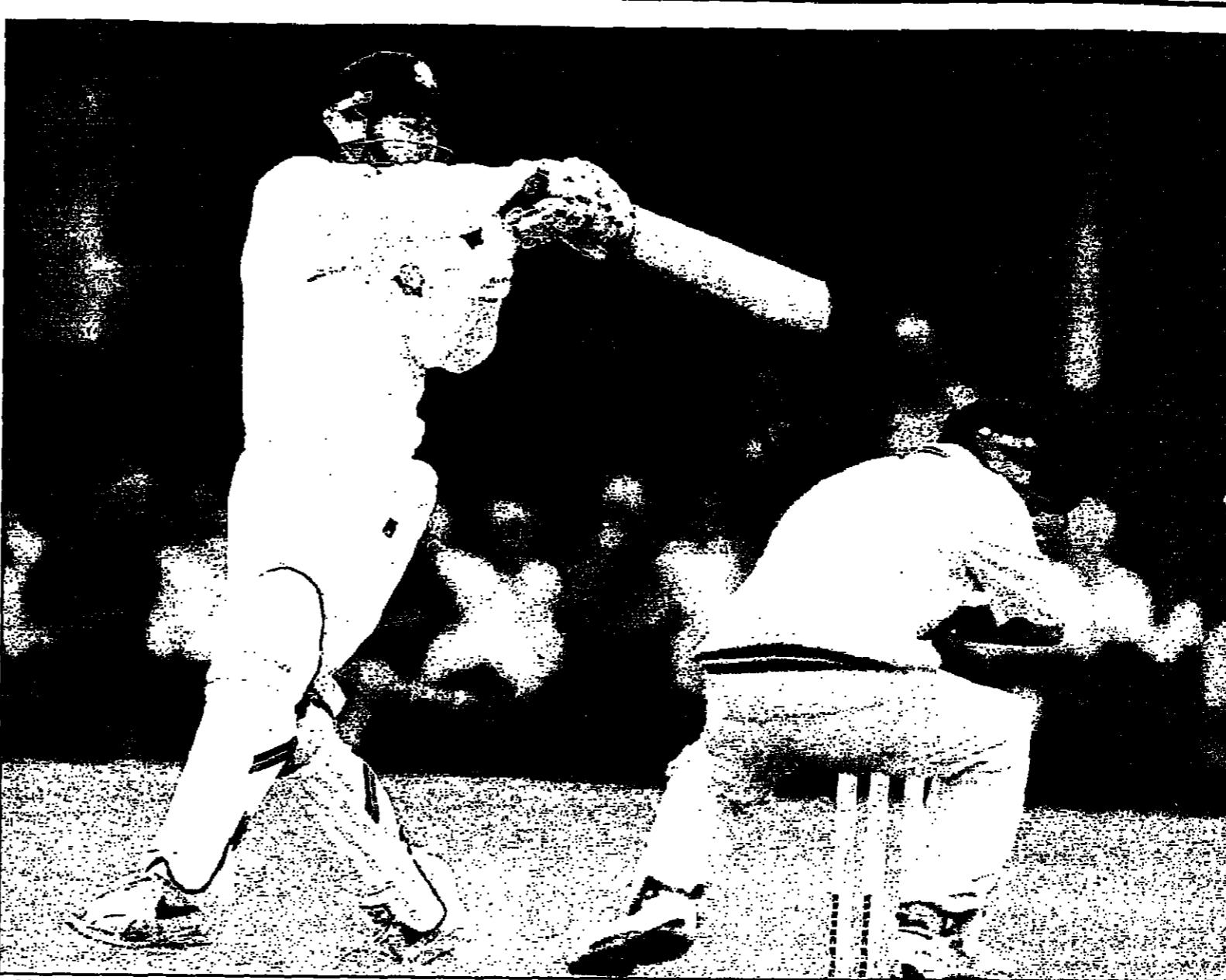
Alec Stewart and the stalwart Ian Ward soon had things back on an even keel moving easily towards lunch. Stewart sadly did not make it, falling an over before the interval and four runs short of 50.

Ward played the anchor role almost too well. He meandered into the doldrums of the 30s and never reappeared, caught behind of Angus Fraser after almost three and a half hours at the crease.

Enter Brown. Apart from the suspicion of a chance to his namesake, Keith, behind the stumps when he was on 71, it was flawless. He shared in a few useful stands, the chirpiest with local man Martin Hicknell, which realised 38 for the seventh wicket; the most useful the one of 64 with Ian Salisbury, which saw Surrey to an overall lead of 370.

Chris Batt, the Middlesex swing bowler who took five for 51 in the first innings, could only muster two for 83 from his 23 overs, the ball not moving in the air on a sunny day. Middlesex, however, will need a big innings from Justin Langer and Mark Ramprakash if they are to have any chance of winning this game.

This was not surprising as the weather and the dead pitch have otherwise made the first two days of this festival un-



Middlesex's David Nash keeps low as the Surrey batsman Adam Hollioake employs the hook on his way to 59 at Guildford yesterday

Peter Jay

## Hooper in a class of his own

By HENRY BLOFELD  
at Southend

**Essex 295; Kent 313-7**

**THERE ARE** extremely few days' cricket which would not be immensely improved by a hundred from Carl Hooper. It is something he makes rather a habit of doing against Essex and even the faithful at Southchurch Park who are happy partisan revelled in the pleasure.

This was not surprising as the weather and the dead pitch have otherwise made the first two days of this festival un-

memorable. An innings by Hooper takes the art of batting on to a different plane, whether it is played in a Test match, a county match, in the garden or on the beach.

His style is classical in an almost ethereal manner. In attack and defence there is a gracefulness about his footwork that Rudolf Nureyev would admire.

When he came two paces down the wicket to straight drive Mark Illott's first bounce for four it was with the leisurely pace of a Stanley Matthews taking on his defender. Hooper is incapable of a single graceless movement.

Above all, he creates the impression of having plenty of time to spare. Nothing is hurried or left to chance and it was as if he had not noticed the stodginess of the pitch which was making stroke-play much more of a problem for the less-er.

The Essex bowlers will be wondering if, inadvertently maybe, they have insulted him, for they will feel that they have had to bat at him far too much. He has batted nine times against them in Championship matches and has scored 774 runs for an average of 86 runs. These runs include

four hundreds, two 50s and 23 his fielding for the rest of the day.

Hooper arrived late in the morning when Kent had progressed unevenly to 80 for 2. By way of clearing his throat, he came down the pitch to Peter Such in the penultimate over before lunch and drove him over extra cover for four and the next ball over long-on for six.

He also hit Stuart Law who was fielding at silly point - hardly a position an insurance company would recommend when Hooper is hovering around the crease - a painful blow on the ankle which ended

## Aftab shows prime touch

By MIKE CAREY  
at Leicester

**Northamptonshire 322**  
and 141 for 6  
Leicestershire 48

**YESTERDAY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** discovered, as if they did not know already, that when you are down on your luck, trying to save a game still has its problems, even on a pitch as good as this.

As it happened, they had a fair share of good fortune when they batted again from 162 behind. Only the call of no ball saved two batsmen who thought they had been dismissed, but even so they lost half their side soon after reaching three figures.

The ease with which Leicestershire's last three wickets added 162 runs - including 66 for the 10th - should have helped to convince Northamptonshire that they could get back into the match, but, as events proved, cricket is a vastly different game when survival is the primary objective.

Before that, there was the little matter of seeing the back of Aftab Habib, who remained at the crease for almost nine hours, facing 378 balls and hitting 27 fours.

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## Electric Arnold's glowing bat Aminul's stand denies Scotland the spoils

By DEREK HODGSON  
at Taunton

**Somerset 356-6 dec and 177-7**  
Sri Lanka 130 and 483-6 dec  
Match drawn

RUSSEL ARNOLD fell eight runs short of his career-best score and 11 away from the highest score by a Sri Lankan in England, 221 by Aravinda de Silva against Hampshire in 1992, and then admitted: "I was aware of both figures but I didn't allow them to affect my play. I was so pleased to produce this form so early in the tour."

He also demonstrates the depth of Sri Lanka's batting as he is still a fringe player for Test selection despite this being the third tour on which he has

scored the first century. "Like all left-handers he has to learn about the danger outside the off-stump," Fernando said.

Fernando had reason to smile at a recovery from 30 for 5 on the morning of the second day to a position at 315 yesterday when the tourists were able to declare, setting Somerset a score of 248 in a minimum of 37 overs.

Somerset's bowlers led by Matt Bulbeck found the morning hard. Few variations in length and line went unpunished by Arnold and his successive partners. His fourth-wicket stand with Hashan Tillakaratne had raised 199 in 41 overs when the latter edged on and the other two wickets went to good slip catches.

If Somerset were ever set on chasing runs they made a poor fist of it. Two boundaries were struck in the first 12 overs and the county's one glimmer of light came with a fifth-wicket stand of 45 in five overs between the captain Peter Bowler and

5 and Aminul on 109. Scotland were foiled in their bid to snatch a dramatic victory in the deciding mini-Test with Bangladesh at Linlithgow last night by a magnificent century from Aminul Islam.

The delayed Scots looked on course for glory when they had the tourists reeling at 103 for 5, chasing 240. But Aminul defied the odds to earn a draw after three days of wildly fluctuating fortunes, with the Bangladeshis eventually finishing on 187 for

four and Aminul on 109. Scotland were foiled in their bid to snatch a dramatic victory in the deciding mini-Test with Bangladesh at Linlithgow last night by a magnificent century from Aminul Islam.

Scotland's bowling attack, missing the injured seamer Craig Wright, could not have wished for a more encouraging start, removing the top three Bangladesh wickets for 16 runs.

Aminul and skipper Akram Khan steadied the tourists' nerves, before Akram scooped

a drive straight to Fraser Watts at cover-point. But Aminul remained defiant to ensure a share of the spoils.

■ South African all-rounder Lance Klusener is out of the fourth test against England and will fly home for treatment to an injured ankle. The 36-year-old suffered the injury to his left ankle as his foot repeatedly landed in the bowlers' footholes during the last Test. Despite X-rays and scans, no cure has been found for his condition.

**Somerset v Sri Lanka**

**TAUNTON** (Day 3 of 4): Somerset drew with Sri Lanka

**Somerset** — First Innings 356 — Second Innings 66

**SRI LANKA** — First Innings 130 — Second Innings 483 for 5 (Atapattu 53)

**Second Innings Contd**

**RUNS 6s 4s 3s 2s 1s**

**RUNNERS** (6s 4s 3s 2s 1s)

**RUNNERS** (6s 4s 3s 2s 1s)

**RUNNERS** (6s 4s 3s 2s 1s)



# Cipollini takes his chance in rough sprint

## CYCLING

By ROBIN NICHOLL  
with the Tour de France

**THE SIGHT** of Mario Cipollini hurtling to victory in the Tour de France was long overdue. Two crashes in three days spoilt the towering Tuscan's plans, but, at Chateauroux, he swept to his seventh stage success in seven tours, this time avoiding a crash almost on the line.

It was his 12th win in 10 years and he took it at the expense of Erik Zabel, the German whose sprinting earned him a day in the yellow jersey on Tuesday.

Cipollini is on song. There is nothing human that can outpace his six-foot plus form once he has spotted an opportunity. He was no threat to Stuart O'Grady's Tour lead, as he trailed by 6min 40sec, but the ambitious Zabel was anxious to cut back his own deficit on the Australian. The German charged for the line and offered a gift to Cipollini.

"It shows how strong I am this year," Cipollini said. "Zabel led the way and with 150 metres left I found an opening and went for it. I am not entirely satisfied with this win because I felt I was capable of many more, consider-

ing my condition this season. I just hope that my hard luck is over."

For all Tour riders a snatch at fame often causes a crash. Yesterday, Cipollini was clear of a spill that brought down three riders, sent many swerving and some almost stopping.

The Czech Jan Svora and an Estonian, Jaan Kursipuu, were blamed for the accident and were relegated to the last two places on this fifth stage and each fined 200 Swiss francs (280).

Cipollini said said the Tour means so much to riders that falls were inevitable. "I have been on the Tour for seven years and it has never been any different. Because it is the Tour and is so important riders feel that it is crucial even to be third or fourth," the Italian said.

Three riders made a brave attempt to steal away on the 228km race from Cholet. The Dutchman Aard Vierhorst started a breakaway and in 4km he was one minute clear. He was joined by the Frenchman Thierry Gouvenou and Italy's Fabio Roscioli and when their advantage topped three minutes Gouvenou led the race to the Paris finale last year.

Ulrich is the outstanding favourite for a second tour victory via the two time-trials that are crucial to his success. Since his debut in 1996 he has beaten the best and possibly his only threat on Saturday will be the Spanish rider Abraham Olano.

**TOUR DE FRANCE** fifth stage: Cholet to Chateauroux, 228km; 1. M Cipollini (Ita) Sesto 3'18min 40sec; 2. E Zabel (Ger) Telekom, 3. C Menghin (Ita) FDJ; 4. A Ferroni (Ita) Lampre; 5. J Ulrich (Ger) Telekom; 6. R Mewin (GB) Team CSC; 7. G Hinckapie (USA) Postal; 8. F Guld (Ita) Poldi; 9. J Moncada (C) Gan; 10. A Belotti (Ita) Lampre; 11. J Svora (Cz) Rep. Mapei; 12. L Michalek (Cz) TUM; 14. V Di Grande (Ita) Mapei; 15. G Di Grande (Ita) Mapei; 16. J Vierhorst (Ned) Telekom; 17. J Ulrich (Ger) Telekom; 18. R Virelizier (Fr) Festina; 19. M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno; 20. Z Sutcu (Sun) Festina, all same time as winner.

**Overall standings:** 1. M O'Grady (Aus) Gan 25:02.18; 2. Hincapie 7sec behind; 3. B Hargreaves (Den) Casino +11; 4. K Ulrich (Ger) Telekom +15; 5. J Vierhorst +16; 6. R Mewin (GB) Team CSC +18; 7. G Hinckapie (USA) Postal +20; 8. F Guld (Ita) Poldi +21; 9. J Moncada (C) Gan +22; 10. A Belotti (Ita) Lampre +23; 11. J Svora (Cz) Rep. Mapei +24; 12. L Michalek (Cz) TUM +25; 13. J Vierhorst +26; 14. J Ulrich (Ger) Telekom +27; 15. R Virelizier (Fr) Festina +28; 16. M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno; 17. Z Sutcu (Sun) Festina, all same time as winner.

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The 127th Open Championship: Two former champions struggle to come to terms with the harsh side of links golf

# Watson battles with changing conditions

By RICHARD EDMONDSON  
at Royal Birkdale

TOM WATSON drinks a lot on the golf course. Later he has to do a lot of something else.

The five-times Open winner won the last of his championships here in 1983 and prides himself on an instinctive feel for the geography of the course. This includes knowing the locations of the various toilets.

Tom was first called away on the fourth yesterday and employed the players' brick latrine. He was at it again on the 10th, but there was a problem. Seve Ballesteros, his playing partner, was already in the mobile chemical loo.

"Hurry up and get out of there," Watson shouted. And out popped Seve. I do hope he straightened the towels and left the handbasin clean.

It's a nerve-racking game, this golf, and by the 15th, the final member of the fifth group, Steve Stricker, completed the set. This was the bravest visit of the day.

When you do this sort of thing on

a municipal it is usually easy to find a quiet thicket. It is not quite the same at the Open amid 40,000 people. Stricker set off into the coastal jungle and gradually his cap disappeared from view. There were sand lizards and other beasties in the direction he was heading. Bold Steve scythed a path out some time later and rejoined us on the fairway. "Much needed," the American said. Then he got a birdie.

Watson was yesterday a consistent raider of the yellow drink units that are the features of every tee. Sparkling waters disappeared down his throat. Until recently, far more dangerous liquids were following the same path.

The American doesn't hate golf any more as his putting touch has returned. He doesn't hate himself either, following his decision to renounce alcohol in November. He had felt the demon drink was getting a hold on him.

It was a day which required refreshment. After the buffering winds of practice came the calm. The sun

appeared, and so should a battery of low scores. But it seemed that players who had braced themselves for bracing weather were finding it hard to adjust to ideal conditions. "I think some of the guys will be intimidated before they even get on the golf course," Watson observed later. "and it will take them a few holes to figure it out it isn't so bad out there."

Watson probably needed to clear the grit out of his throat. After a 25ft putt on the seventh had taken him to one under, he visited two bunkers on the next hole as it all started to go wrong. He returned to sand on three further occasions.

When he got into the rough, the American found it very difficult to get out. The essential crispness that was a great part of his game in the glory years has gone. He is not as strong as he was and doesn't turn as convincingly. Consequently, the club-head speed has gone. For Watson, the game of golf is not elementary any longer.

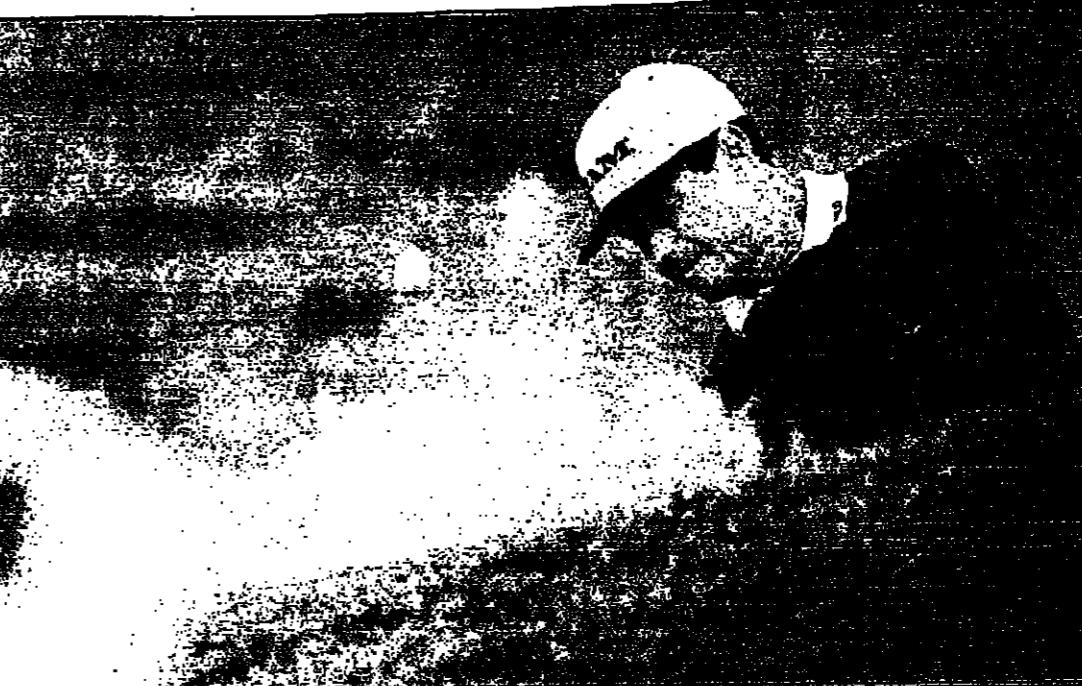
Nevertheless, he still wins the occasional tournament, and will collect

many more when he becomes eligible for the Seniors tour next year. He remains a man of shining manners. Watson was quick to praise when his partners played well yesterday and was patient with the press after finishing with four consecutive fives for a 73. "I got in the rough a few times and I didn't extricate it very well," he told us. "I was up against a vertical wall in the sand two or three times as well, but then you're not supposed to be in there are you? It had 73 written all over from the start."

The compensation was a few hours in the company of an old friend and foe. "There is always a lot of magic there with Seve's game; the touch and feel," Watson said. "He understands links golf about the best of anyone I have ever known. It's always a great pleasure to play with him."

From 1975, Watson and Ballesteros hogged the Open. Between them, they won eight of the next 14 championships. The last time the Open was here, in 1991, Ballesteros led after the first round with a 66.

Since 1995, though, the Spaniard



Tom Watson fires out of another bunker during yesterday's first round

David Ashdown

zagging up the 15th. And Seve the showman saved his best drive until last, as the great cliffs of the 18th hole's grandstand loomed in the distance. Then he hit his nine iron short and took three putts from 25 feet. It's become like that.

"There were a few bad drives and a few bad irons and that about sums it up," he said. "I had good chances on 9, 10, 11 and 12 but I didn't putt very well. But I am happier because it is getting better." His game, however, will never be good enough again to be released from the sanatorium.

# Tiger's day of high fives and five under

**THERE IS no escape from the World Cup, even if the United States doesn't know the difference between an own goal and Alcatraz. Tiger Woods, perhaps inevitably, was asked about Ronaldo. Question: Tiger, some people describe you as the Ronaldo of the golf world, do you feel the same kind of pressure as he obviously did in France last week?**

"No, I didn't know what World Cup it was, I think it was the one they had in the States, where some guy somewhere in South America just kicked in a goal accidentally and he got shot for it or something or stabbed."

"I don't see that happening in golf as a result of me hitting a bad shot or something like that."

This was particularly good news for members of the Army Golf Society who, for the second year running, have been assigned to a duty not dissimilar to Clint Eastwood's in the film *In the Line of Fire*. These enthusiastic volunteers have a considerable task.

**Price and Per-Ulrik Johansson, were aware of a distressed youngster in the crowd. The marshals discovered that the almost inconsolable lad had lost his granddad. He was given a drink, reassured and within five minutes was reunited with his grandfather. Great stuff.**

There was no such trauma for Woods who, every time he made a decent putt, did a high five with his caddie, Fluff. On one occasion, Fluff read the line of a putt from two and a half feet and then rubbed his old eyes. The ball went into the hole for a birdie three. Fluff is Tiger's insurance policy, although he probably doesn't need it.

As so often happens on these occasions, Price lifted his game to keep pace with Woods, even though he thought the American was not giving it the Full Monty.

"It looked like he throttled back a little bit, which is good to see," Price said. "He went hard at one shot which was a two-iron into the 15th. He had 241 yards and he hit it six or seven yards past the pin. That's the only one I saw him go flat out at. A year ago he used to do that more frequently."

"He'll mature. He's learning every year. I think he was diligent enough to go out there and round off the rough edges. He's got so much talent and, just as Jack Nicklaus did, he will get better and better with age. By the time he gets to 30, he's going to be a pretty good player."

Twelve months ago at Royal Troon, Woods threw in a round of 64 but generally displayed impatience and a lack of experience on a championship links course. He finished well down the field. From yesterday's evidence he seems to have learnt a lesson. The biggest hitter in the game used his driver on only four holes, but he still had Royal Birkdale where he wanted it.

"I think I putted better this time than I did when I shot the 64," Woods said. "I made a couple of bombs and it felt really good."

His first birdie came on the third hole where he hit a five-iron off the tee. He hit a pitching wedge to about 10 feet and rolled in the putt. At the fifth, he hit a two-iron and a nine-iron to about 12 feet and also made that. On the seventh, a par three of 177 yards, he hit a five-iron to the back edge of the

green. "I made about a 250-footer there," he said.

"I'm learning how to play golf," Woods said. "I think it is an evolution process that every player goes through. I'm still learning to flight the ball, learning a lot of different shots. Overall, I'm very pleased with my progress."

In addition to the Army Golf Society, Woods was carried



Tiger Woods tees off at the par-four 13th during his first round of 65 at Birkdale yesterday

David Ashdown

## OPEN QUOTES... CLOSE QUOTES

**"It has not happened yet. I will be on the mobile phone as soon as I get to it."**

**English qualifier Gary Evans, whose wife was due to give birth yesterday, Evans shot a one-under-par 69.**

**"I think I have a chance in each and every major. You've got to be hitting on all cylinders in order to win. Every facet of your game has to be good in order to win a major."**

**Tiger Woods, looking to contend in a major for the first time since winning the Masters, before he moved into an early lead with a 30 on the front nine.**

**"All I'm concerned about now is trying to make the halfway cut."**

**Colin Montgomerie, having been joint leader himself at two under after six holes, fell away to a 73 and so maintained his record of never breaking**

**par on the opening day of the biggest tournament of the year. He has now failed to play all four rounds in four of the last six years.**

**"I'd hate to think what I would have scored on Monday – it was almost impossible I think the winning score with four days like that would have been 10 over."**

**John Huston, grateful for the fact that the strong winds of the start of the week had abated yesterday.**

**"He skyrocketed the game, put a level of expectation on all of us trying to achieve. Like Michael Jordan has done for basketball, he has put the bar so high, it is really neat you can compare yourself to him."**

**Tiger Woods on Jack Nicklaus, who was forced to pull out of Birkdale, ending a run of 14 consecutive majors.**

green. "I made about a 250-footer there," he said.

"I'm learning how to play golf," Woods said. "I think it is an evolution process that every player goes through. I'm still learning to flight the ball, learning a lot of different shots. Overall, I'm very pleased with my progress."

In addition to the Army Golf Society, Woods was carried

along by the support of the crowd. "Man, the support was great," Woods said. "You kind of draw from that. You make birdie and they get you fired up a little bit. They give you an extra little boost. It was pretty neat. The ovation I got at the 18th, I haven't had that in a long time and it felt really good."

The warm applause that accompanied Tiger down the 18th

yesterday will seem like a whisper compared to the reception he will receive on Sunday should he be within touching distance of the old silver claret jug.

It sounds ominous but Woods said: "I love this golf course because it is extremely difficult but fair. All the trouble is right in front of you. It makes it very enjoyable be-

cause it's as if you've got lanes you've got to hit through and if you stray from those lanes you're going to get penalised. That's how it should be."

The world No 1 has won only one major championship, the Masters last year, but he and Birkdale seem to have hit it off. "I'm always ready to win another major," Woods said.

**WEATHER FORECAST**  
TODAY: Overnight rain petering out towards dawn. Cloud breaking to give sunny spells and scattered showers. Maximum temperature 17C, minimum 12C. Wind south-south-west to west, 10-15mph. Medium risk of thunder.

**SUNDAY:** Small risk of an overnight shower. Day dry with sunny periods. Maximum temperature 17C, minimum 13C. Wind south to south-west, 10-15mph. Medium risk of thunder.

**TELEVISION COVERAGE**

BBC1 1030, 1300; BBC2 1230.

# Houllier to share power at Liverpool

## FOOTBALL

BY GUY HODGSON

LIVERPOOL, WHO have been neither one thing nor another, successes nor failures, in recent seasons, came up with a characteristically ambivalent answer yesterday. They did not promote or demote their manager, Roy Evans, but they altered his position by appointing Gerard Houllier by his side. The Grand Old Duke of York would have been proud of them.

Houllier, who stepped down as the French Football Association's technical director on Sunday, will become joint manager with Evans, whose four and a half years in sole control has proved to be mirage. There is a case for regarding Liverpool as the best team in England but their only prize amid a large pile of disappointment has been the League Cup of 1995.

Now the 50-year-old Frenchman, whom Celtic hoped to appoint as their manager yesterday, will help address that underachievement, although neither joint manager was fully fit with where the demarcation line would fall.

"I took the job on the condition Roy stayed," Houllier said. "It is an excellent opportunity for us both and I believe, with

out mutual respect and expertise, we can fulfil the expectations surrounding this club from the players, the fans, from everyone."

"There will be shared responsibility and it might take time to get things right, but we will make the best of it."

Evans added: "The titles of joint manager will cause concern for some and we know there will be problems we have to iron out, but I am looking forward to the challenge and I don't think we've anything to fear."

Gerard and I will complement each other because we have the same philosophy about the way the game should be played."

"I have knowledge of the traditions at Liverpool, like the boot-room mentality, whereas Gerard can bring his expertise on European and world football to the club."

Houllier did not play professionally, but proved his credentials by coaching Paris St-Germain to the French title in 1986 before assuming the role of technical director and assistant coach of the French national team two years later. His elevation to national coach lasted only 16 months when he resigned after the failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, but he remained technical director and was second

A younger man would have allowed Evans, 49, to move upstairs in a supervisory role but Houllier is a year older. Hence the blurred responsibility, which is likely to heighten rather than lessen speculation concerning Evans' future, particularly as Houllier is already sounding like the senior man.

"I have got to know Roy very well over the course of our discussions and I know Liverpool will benefit from his tactical and technical know-how," he said. "He will be a great asset and together we can give the fans what they deserve."

Meanwhile, Celtic are no nearer naming a successor to Wim Jansen. Houllier had been linked with Parkhead, but his appointment at Liverpool had ended that and supporters have turned their frustration on the general manager, Jock Brown.

Yesterday, Brown scuttled rumours he was about to leave Celtic with a short statement: "Contrary to malicious speculation, I have not resigned and have no intention to."

only to Aimé Jacquet when credit was acknowledged after France's win over Brazil last Sunday.

Houllier became close friends with the Liverpool vice-chairman, Peter Robinson, when he worked as a teacher in Merseyside during the Sixties. "Gerard used to stand on the Spion Kop in those days and watch Liverpool," Robinson said, "so he already understands a lot about our club."

Nevertheless, the appointment marks a compromise. Houllier's name has played a central part in rumours around Merseyside for more than a year but the problem has always been Evans' position, which has been undermined by a lack of trophies and perceptions his authority was questioned by the players.

Against that, Liverpool never finished outside the Premier's top four under his control.

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The Frenchman Gerard Houllier, Liverpool's new joint-manager with Roy Evans, faces the press at Anfield yesterday

Empics

## Coventry profit from Moldovan

BY ANDREW MARTIN

COVENTRY OFF-LOADED Vlure Moldovan to the Turkish club Fenerbahce yesterday, netting a handsome £750,000 profit on the Romanian World Cup striker they bought from Grasshopper Zurich for £3.25m six months ago.

Gordon Strachan, City's manager, has dispensed with Moldovan's services after assessing the club's forward rota that includes Dion Dublin, Noel Whelan, Darren Huckerby and Simon Haworth, all of whom are signed on long-term contracts.

The £4m fee - a club record - represents a canny piece of business by the Scot, who could not guarantee Moldovan a regular place in the first eleven.

Strachan was also concerned he would not qualify for a work permit.

Manchester United were also dipping into the warchest yesterday as the club agreed terms with Parma for Jesper Blomqvist and are expected to complete the transfer of the Swedish winger next week.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, who tried to sign Blomqvist last season, said: "The boy has gone back to Parma for talks with his club. I expect him to be back next week when we expect to conclude the deal."

Blomqvist initially impressed Ferguson when he was playing for IFK Gothenburg and scored the first goal in the 3-1 victory against United in November 1994 in a Champions' League match. United refused to confirm the fee but it is believed to be around £5m.

While they were busy spending at Old Trafford, Stan Collymore, a United transfer target in 1995, was feeling the pinch.

The sportswear company Diadora has terminated its £2.5m sponsorship contract with the Aston Villa striker, whose status as a hero of the Holt End took a nosedive after reports emerged of an attack on his girlfriend Ulrika Jonsson in a Paris bar on the eve of the opening game of the World Cup.

Diadora UK released a statement saying Collymore had not complied with certain contractual obligations and left the company with no alternative but to terminate the deal immediately.

Having seen their most prolific striker depart this week, Arsenal have moved swiftly to ensure the club's most promising forward remains at Highbury. Nicolas Anelka, who had been linked with Barcelona

activity appears to know no bounds and yesterday Dick Advocaat was adding the Leeds striker Rod Wallace to his radically re-shaped squad.

The new coach made Wallace, out of contract at Elland Road, his sixth summer signing 24 hours after hiring Andrei Kanchelskis in a £5.5m deal. Wallace has signed a three-year deal, but failed to arrive in time to beat the first European deadline last night and is unavailable for the opening Uefa Cup qualifier against Shelsbourne next Wednesday. Security concerns mean the match against the Dublin side will now be played at Tranmere's Prenton Park.

The Netherlands Dutch World Cup coach, Guus Hiddink, has signed a two-year contract with the European Cup-winners Real Madrid.

## HOULLIER FACT-FILE

1947 Born 3 September in Lille. Never played football professionally and worked as an English teacher while playing for and then coaching a local amateur side Le Touquet in the 1970s.

1979 Took over as coach of Nantes, a new club, then the equivalent of the French Fifth Division. Made his mark by leading them into the Second Division in three successive promotions.

1982 Becomes manager of Lens, guiding them into European competition.

1985 Takes over at Paris St-Germain, and leads them to the French title in 1986.

1988 After failing to repeat his earlier success, leaves Paris St-Germain to take a coaching post-

1989 in the French national set-up. Later becomes assistant to Michel Platini.

1990 Takes on the role of technical director with the French Football Federation. Enjoyed success in guiding the French Under-19 side to victory in the European Championships.

1992 Becomes Platini as national coach.

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2001 Becomes manager of Lens, guiding them into European competition.

2002 Becomes manager of Paris St-Germain, and leads them to the French title in 2003.

2003 Becomes manager of Liverpool, replacing Roy Evans.

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2073 Becomes manager of Liverpool, replacing Roy Evans.



# FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



## The calling

Many are called, few are chosen – but far more than you would think. Across all denominations, more people than ever are taking the cloth. In today's world, what kind of man or woman does it take to become a priest?

BY PAUL VALLEY

INSIDE

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LAW

THE PRIEST fell noisily on to the tablecloth. First, there was a hard sound as it made contact with the linen. I looked up. Then it crumpled and rolled to the side with a flump which rippled through the high-ceilinged silence of the old Victorian mansion with its decrepit mouldings and tall cracked windows. The echo seemed to carry on down the long, vaulted corridors of the monastery.

This was lunch in the Charter House of the strictest monastic order in the Roman Catholic world. I was alone in the guest-house. Outside, in the little houses off the cloisters, some 30 Carthusian monks would be alone in their cells, eating the meals which had been pushed through hatches in the walls of their little houses, so that they could avoid even the interaction with the brother who brought the food.

By the table was a food box on which the title of the Prior had been written in practical calligraphy. "We must get you some food," the Prior had said urgently, and then gave me his own before disappearing in search of a replacement helping.

The urgency was because it was noon – time for the only meal which Carthusians are allowed every day. Inside, I was to discover, the contents consisted of a bowl of white lentil soup, a dish of potato with yellow courgettes fried with a little sardine, a slab of omelette as thick as a cake, and a lump of the home-made cheese served with prunes and a handful of raisins. There was a bottle of the monastery's own cider but there is never meat. Had it been Lent or Advent there would have been no dairy products. Had it been a Friday or another day of fasting it would have contained only bread and water.

The prior left me to eat alone. "Silence is a rich thing," he had said earlier. "It is the quality of presence." As I ate I could hear the sound of my own jaw moving.

Earlier this month, the Church of England announced a 15 per cent rise in the number of ordinands who had taken their vows as deacons – the final stage before

**Around one in thirty can't even stand 24 hours. Many say 'I've made a terrible mistake'**

priesthood. The rise was accompanied by growing numbers of people going into training to become priests. "For the first time for a generation we've had three years of rises," says the church's Director of Ministry, the Venerable Gordon Kubert. It now has more than 1,200 people in training.

It is an increase which is matched across the denominations. Vocations – which have been in what secularists previously predicted as terminal decline since the 1950s – have started to level off and shown signs of picking up in the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches too. But most spectacular of all is the influx to St Hugh's Charter House near Horsham in Surrey where, the Prior Fr Cyril told me simply: "We're full up. It's been going on for the last few years. We can't take people for lack of space."

And this is the most demanding of all Western religious vocations. Carthusians live the solitary life of hermits within the walls of a monastery. The monks live in individual cells, where they pray, study, eat, and sleep alone all week. They come together only to process in silence to the dark wood-panelled church three times a day, where they sing a Divine Office which takes seven hours – three of them between midnight and 3am so that their night's sleep is always broken in two. They speak only once a week when, after coming together to eat, they take a three-hour walk together in the country. They wear rough-woven, cowl-necked habits of coarse, white blanket-cloth with hair shirts beneath them. It is the only form of communal religious life that has never required and never experienced reform.

Yet as well as the 15 men who are currently novices at the Charter House, there are five more on a waiting list. The Prior handles around 200 serious enquiries a year, which he weeds out first by a questionnaire designed to spot the eccentrics, and then by inviting the men in on retreat to "live the life", as he put it. "Around one in 30 can't even stand 24 hours. Many panic after three days and say 'I've made a terrible mistake', but that usually passes."

Ascertaining suitability thereafter is a lengthy process. It's a matter of temperament, not intellect. "They have to be able to live the interior life. It demands a great deal of formation – 10 to 15 years to live it with any depth ... to get through the pitfalls ... there's so much scope for illusion and psychological imbalance ... We don't like young men. You can't bring people through their adolescent growth in solitude. People are adolescent until they are about 30," he said in a continuous stream, almost without pausing for breath.

For a solitary contemplative he is prettily garrulous, I observed. He laughed impulsively. "You don't have to be totally introverted, you just have to have an interior life," he admonished. The novices ar-

ived with some odd stereotypes too. "You have to stop them from exaggerating. Sometimes they want to be ecstatic. The living tradition helps to translate the ideals they have in their head into life that's sane and full. Being a monk is practical, not abstract; the spiritual is nearer to the sensible than the intellectual," he added. "It's through the rhythm of things that we arrive at purity of heart."

So who, in the modern world, is attracted to this? "The contemplative life is a particular vocation and our novices have almost all undergone an extraordinary life history to get here. But they are people who aren't losers: they are well educated and had successful careers, which is good because it's better to know what you're giving up – imagination is a great force – and it feeds a great deal more on the unknown than the known. They are people by and large from well-off backgrounds; the kind of people who embrace poverty aren't poor to start with." His novices, who are in their late 20s to mid 40s, include an air-traffic controller, an engineer and a writer.

Could I speak with one? He paused. "There is a professional musician – a concert organist – who was very good, but as an artist he felt he had reached the limit of his expression." There is no organ in the monastery. "Music in one sense leads to silence," he said, enigmatically. "Then there is a good Norfolk man. He did physics and maths at university, and then was a croupier in London and South Africa before setting up his own computer businesses. He is now a brother who works in the garden."

He paused again. "It's a delicate thing," he mused, and then pronounced that I could meet a monk named Raphael who had been a hippy who had fallen ill in Nepal and been taken into a Buddhist monastery. "But first you must have lunch."

There is a theory – which was advanced in the 1970s by the sociologists Curry, Gilbert and Horsley – which links religious vocations to economic good times. They tracked all the indices of religious activity from the late 1700s onwards and plotted them against economic activity. Vocations in all denominations, they concluded, move in line with economic prosperity. It is, therefore, no coincidence that the peak of vocations, 1959, was the year in which the Prime Minister Harold Macmillan told the British nation: "You've never had it so good." The theory is that in the bad times people hope for good times; then once the good times come, people begin to sense that what they bring doesn't seem to be enough.

Allison Waterhouse certainly agrees. One of the changes in modern vocations is that individuals are feeling the call at a much later age. The typical Methodist ordinand nowadays is a 41-year-old woman with three children. Allison almost fits. She's 45 and has a son and a daughter. The timing of her call to God was probably, implicitly, so affected. "We are creatures of our times," she said at the church in Gospel Oak in North London where she became minister after her ordination in York Minister last month. "We're coming out of the Thatcher society – with its values of making money, meeting targets and setting people aside – and people are coming to realise you can't live like that."

Until eight years ago, Allison's involvement in her church at Putney in West London was largely social. She had been brought up in a non-religious household – "My mum was very iffy about religion" – and had been attracted to the church simply because her flatmate went there. "After art college I was working for various publishers as a designer. Living in London, there is always that loneliness. I was drawn to the church through the lifestyles and attitudes of the people there. There was a quality to their life, a depth, as if the world I was in was a more superficial one. I remember going along and meeting a young chap running a youth club for boys of the estate. I thought 'this is what's important about life – doing something for nothing'. Within six months I had married him, but I found the language and worship of the church indecipherable."

What changed her was a programme of Lenten study based around a BBC television programme, *The Sword and the Spirit*, presented by Charles Elliott, a former director of Christian Aid. It centred around Liberation Theology in the Third World. It came at a point when her two children had gone to school and she was thinking of returning to work.

"I started to wake in the night, I couldn't put my finger on it. Putney was a middle class area. I hadn't seen the whole thing about being alongside the poor. I'd never connected Jesus with liberation. Suddenly I started to think, what am I going to do with my life? Go back to work, second income, bigger house, new car." Instead she went on a retreat, which is where she underwent the dramatic experience which led to her decision to become ordained.

There was perhaps something similar in the timing of the call felt by Stephen France. Now entering his second year of study at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, a Church of England theological college, he was until a year ago private secretary to a succession of Tory and then Labour government ministers. "When I told my staff that I was leaving, after 11 years in the civil service, Continued on page 8

## Learn to love the Orangemen

I SHOULD have known better. Yesterday I wrote a piece in which I suggested that there was no point in making fun of the Orange Order; as there was no way of making it seem more pointless than it really was. Today I have received a letter of protest from an Orange henchman. An open letter, no less. Not just open, but unsealed. Not just open and unsealed, but unsigned, too.

Well, I have always believed in hearing the other man's point of view. I am also all in favour of printing someone else's work in this space, to get a day off for myself, so without further ado here is an Open, Unsealed, Unsigned Letter from an Orangeman to Mr so-called Miles Kington.

"Dear Mr So-called Miles Kington,  
Very funny. Well, I didn't



### MILES KINGTON

*What good have you done for the British hatting industry recently?*

think it was funny, but I am an Orangeman, you see, and wouldn't understand these things.

Anyway, we are very used in Northern Ireland to the English pretending to understand the situation and not knowing what they're talking about. We in Northern Ireland don't know what the hell the situation is all about, so how should you?

But just to put you straight on a few points.

1. First of all, we are striking a blow for live music. You may not approve of the old life and drums, but you have to admit that at least it is played live, and none of your canned music.

I was at the Notting Hill Carnival once, and I was horrified how many West Indian floats went past with sound systems on board, and not a whisper of a live musician. I think the Musicians' Union, who are always fighting for live music, would be right behind us on this one.

We are not actually members of the MU, as this is not a paid engagement, and all our fellow do it for the love of the movement, but the message holds.

2. Secondly, we are striking a blow for live marching. There is a perpetual feeling of regret that National Service was abolished, with its inculcation of discipline and communal teamwork, and I think there is a valuable remnant of this in our marching

rehearsals and public appearances. We put a lot of hard work into this and it shows.

Many a young Orangeman has said to me in after-years how glad he was to get the chance to do a bit of disciplined marching in his formative years. If nothing else, it teaches them to polish their shoes correctly, another thing that has gone down the hill since the abolition of National Service.

If there is one thing that saddens us in the Orange order, it is that however often we are written about, nobody ever says how well we march. We are aware that the cameras of the world are upon us. We know that if we march sloppily it will give an impression of sloppy thinkers to everyone watching worldwide. So we march immaculately. We practise endlessly. But never once do we get a good review. Can you imagine how sickening that is?

3. It is very good exercise. I think you will find that the average Protestant is a lot fitter than the average Catholic.

4. We are, as you graciously admitted, doing our bit for the preservation of the bowler hat. We may well be the last people doing anything about it. I don't think you'll find many people in the City of London still sporting bowler hats or furled umbrellas. Next time you feel like laughing at our appearance, first ask yourself what you have done for the British hatting industry recently.

5. The Orange marching season could, if handled properly, do a lot for the Northern Ireland tourist industry.

We all know that tourists are desperate to find a bit of native life to look at and take photos of, whether it's Native American dancing, Zulu war parades or whirling dervishes. Now, the thing is that all that Zulu and Red Indian stuff is just put on for the tourists. A few old folk who remember the ancient routines dragged out to shuffle through the old steps, to give the instamatics something to click at.

But it's different with the Orange marching season. This is something which has never died out and which is still keenly supported by the community. What a bonanza for tourism it could be! People flocking from all over to watch us! I can't believe it hasn't been marketed properly already.

6. Now, as for the history of the Orange Order, let us go back to the 18th century..."

*Miles Kington writes: I'm afraid that's all we have space for, especially as I have just received a letter from the Musicians' Union, asking me to stress that in view of the above revelations they are all urging all promoters NOT to book the Orange marching band for ANY paid dances, marches, bar intervals or other engagements.*

## THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

### MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

### TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars.

### WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday.

### THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday.

### FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

## THE INDEPENDENT

Bigger and better

## THE INDEPENDENT

### PHOTOGRAPHS

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Continuing our series on life at Battersea Dogs Home, a couple hoping to adopt a dog get to know a prospective mongrel

Tom Pilston

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Torture in Indonesia

Sir: Your report (15 July) that seven members of the Indonesian Special Forces (Kopassus) have been arrested on charges of kidnapping and torture confirm some of the worst fears regarding the Kopassus role in recent events in Jakarta.

It is now exactly 40 years since Britain first started training these Kopassus troops under the aegis of the Special Boat Squadron (SBS) following the abortive (and Western-supported) Outer Island revolts in Indonesia in 1957-8. Yet it is in this period that some of the worst

excesses against civilians have

taken place, including the anti-Communist massacres of 1965-66,

which left at least 600,000 dead and over a million imprisoned, and the occupation of East Timor, where upwards of 200,000 (or perhaps even 400,000) perished – among them six Western (including two British) journalists.

Developments in Indonesia

during the past few months confirm

yet again the dangers of providing

sophisticated training for special

forces who operate outside the rule

of law.

At present Indonesia appears to

be moving towards some form of

constitutional and legal reform

which may eventually strip the

Indonesian armed forces of some

of their political privileges. Once that

happens, it may be, as supporters of

the current enrollment of Kopassus

officers at the University of Hull and

the Royal Military College at

Shrivenham argue (letters, 29 May),

that exposure to British educational

values, and debates about human

rights, civil liberties and democratic

freedoms will have some impact on

such officers. Until then, such

enrolments should be put on hold.

DR PETER CAREY

Fellow and Tutor in Modern History

Trinity College, Oxford

### In praise of mould

Sir: Yes, I think I would be delighted to be invited to dinner at Virginia Ironside's. What splendid, good old-fashioned common sense she writes (The Irritations of Modern Life: Fussy Eaters, 15 July).

We are surely breeding out of

ourselves any resistance to the

various bugs that do the rounds, by

our insistence on sell-by dates on our

groceries. As she rightly says, some

foods have to be "off" in order to be

at their best – imagine Danish blue

or Roquefort or Stilton without the

blue veins. Perhaps, we had better

not shout too loudly lest Dr

Cunningham takes it into his head to

issue a *dictum* on the subject.

I refuse to buy meat from a

supermarket; my local butcher in the

next village is one of those old-style

butchers who will carefully hang

meat until it is ready. I like my beef

hung for a fortnight until the outside

is dry, dull red, almost brown, and

the fat is a proper deep yellow colour.

That way, I know that I shall enjoy

the best of flavour. You would not be

able to buy such beef at the

supermarket because it would

certainly be past any arbitrary sell-

by date.

I report that the Archbishop

said that mass and confessions

should only be held in the island's

established churches". The

Archbishop did make it clear that

Sunday masses and confessions

should be in those churches; the

At the deli counter of any supermarket you will also see large

cupboards at the back in which

foodstuffs past their sell-by dates are

put for disposal. How much waste is

occasioned by these practices? So

what if there is a bit of mould on that

cheddar lurking in the corner of the

fridge? It will probably taste all the

better for it, and our gut flora will be

all the better for it too.

JJS GOSS

Bletchley, Buckinghamshire

House of Prayer is still free to have

weekday Mass and confessions.

HUGH LINDSAY

Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria

The writer was Roman Catholic

Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

1974-1992

which proposed the location and

alignment of the runways and Y-

shaped terminal building, was

prepared by the consultants Greiner

Maunsell in 1990. The design of the

passenger terminal was carried out

by the Mott Consortium, led by the

consulting engineers Mott

MacDonald through its Australian

organisation, with Foster

and Partners and BAA as members.

Different engineering consultants

were responsible for the design of

other aspects of the airport and the

design and construction of the whole

project was closely managed by the

airport authority's project director

It is not generally understood that

three quarters of any modern

building is designed, in the sense of

the determination and provision of

the information on what is to be

made and built, by engineers – civil,

structural, mechanical and

electrical. On an airport, which

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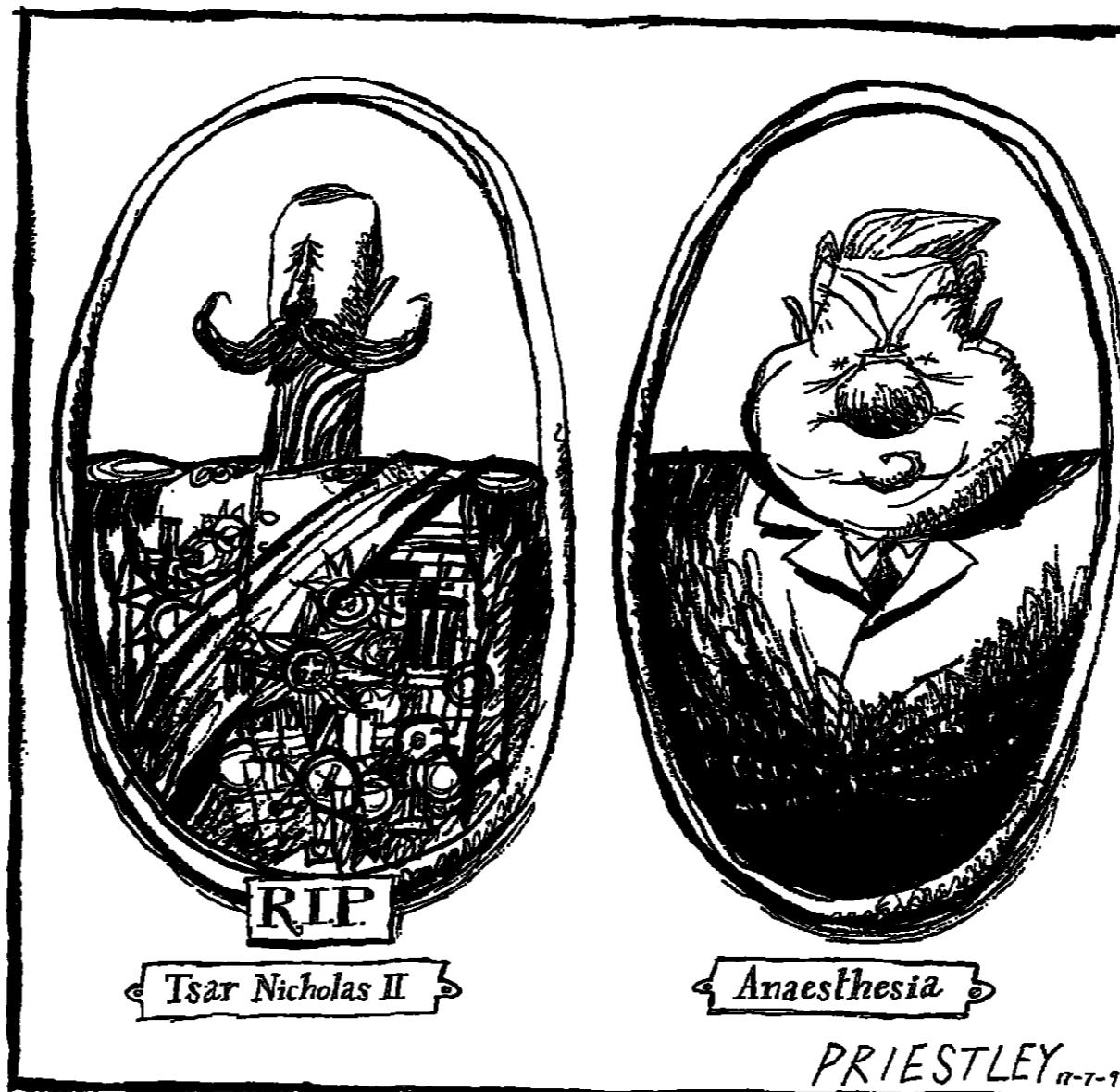
## The good, the bad and the frankly indifferent

THE INSTITUTION of the annual reshuffle is not conducive to good government, and is certainly no incentive to good journalism. The build-up to next week's event – or will it be the week after? – has weakened the Government and bored the rest of us. The Prime Minister should promote people as soon as he is persuaded that they would do a better job than the incumbent, instead of waiting for an artificial big bang. Obviously, if he moves one minister, it creates a long chain reaction reaching down into the over-populated junior ranks. But the lesson of that is that there are far too many ministers – both the total number and the size of the Cabinet should be reduced – not that it should all be done at once.

However, since there will be a big reshuffle shortly, now is a good time to assess the performance of ministers in their first 14 months. There have been some conspicuous successes. Gordon Brown has made an assured start as Chancellor triumphantly recasting the bogey of Big Government as the Enabling State. John Prescott has proved to be a good manager of a large and unwieldy department, held together by his green vision. Jack Straw and David Blunkett have both brought to their departments the fruits of serious thinking about their jobs in opposition. Mo Mowlam has been the most surprising star, bringing a fresh, human perspective to long-entrenched positions in Northern Ireland.

Lower down the cabinet rankings, Frank Dobson has done well at Health, although this is partly a function of low expectations. Instead of being in the ejector seat first time round, he is now saved for the second. George Robertson has been outstanding at Defence. Clare Short has brought creative energy to her traditionally overlooked brief of International Development. David Clark holds one of those non-jobs with medieval titles but, left accidentally in charge of the Cabinet Office, he has bravely pressed the cause of meaningful Freedom of Information laws in a Government many of whose inner instincts are deeply hostile.

Fully one-third of the Cabinet, though, have not done enough to hold on to their jobs. Chief among these is Robin Cook, who made a large mistake in proclaiming an ethical foreign policy with no idea what it meant, and a small but telling one in not knowing what story to tell about Sierra Leone. Chris Smith has floundered in the department of Culture, Media and Sport. Harriet Harman at Social Security failed to see the significance of the cut in lone parent benefit. Ann Taylor, as the Government's business manager in the Commons, has



failed to modernise Parliament. Margaret Beckett, Jack Cunningham, Gavin Strang and Ron Davies, while competent, have performed without distinction.

The Cabinet should be cut from 22 to 19: agriculture and transport should go and Mr Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, can do his excellent job outside Cabinet.

Ms Harman should stay in the Cabinet as Leader of the House, charged with making Parliament family-friendly. Peter Mandelson should take over as Foreign Secretary. The job is essentially about public relations and he is unpopular at home. Some of his friends are dodgy, but he has the Prime Minister's confidence. For

the rest, Kim Howells should become Culture Secretary. Ian McCartney, who sold the minimum wage to the unions, could sell welfare reform to Labour's traditional constituency at Social Security. Which leaves a space at Trade and Industry for one of the bright, over-tipped suits: Alistair Darling, Stephen Byers and Alan Milburn. One could be chosen on the basis of an essay competition on the subject of the dynamic market economy. And the thinning of the lower ranks should include a gold watch for Geoffrey Robinson, the inattentive Paymaster General.

That is a line-up that would noticeably sharpen the effectiveness of the Government. Will Mr Blair be so bold?

## Don't water down international justice

IT LOOKS as though talks in Rome to set up an international war crimes court will end in failure today. Either they will break down altogether, or they will produce, under United States pressure, a blueprint so watered down that it would not be worth having. This would be a tragic end for a noble vision. The ending of the Cold War is an opportunity to develop a code of basic values to curb the worst excesses of inhuman behaviour. The aim is to set up a permanent court that would be above any notion of "victor's justice", the criticism levelled at the Nuremberg trials. But it has run into opposition not just from pariah states such as Iraq, Iran and Libya, and not just from those countries which see it as Western cultural imperialism, such as China, Russia and India, but from the self-proclaimed champion of freedom and justice, the US.

Washington's objection seems to be that US soldiers should never have to face judgment by any court beyond US jurisdiction. This is a curious reason for blocking agreement. The US is already party to several treaties whose obligations are enforceable in international courts. Besides, the new body is intended as a court of last resort, which would sit only if there were a clear inability to obtain justice in national courts. The Clinton administration's real calculation may be more to do with paranoia in Congress about anything to do with the United Nations.

If the US neuters the plan, Britain and its other supporters should reject it. There is already ad hoc machinery for prosecuting war criminals, through the International Court at The Hague. But a permanent court would be a more effective deterrent. If an effective court already existed, it might have restrained the war criminals of former Yugoslavia. It might have, or it might not. But it is worth the attempt, to restrain the war criminals of the future.

## No Bar to success

RAISE A glass, please, to Paul Kurtz, the great whiz of the American courts who has confirmed what we all knew. It turns out that Mr Kurtz, who has scored some spectacular successes on behalf of his clients, is not a qualified lawyer after all. Indeed, he has a string of fraud convictions longer than those of many of the people he defended. But a qualified colleague who came up against him said he wished "all lawyers acted as well and as competently in proceedings as he did". Legal qualifications are no guarantee of competence, nor is their absence any bar to success.

# The future of Scotland is the same as the future of Britain

WHO WILL save the Union? If you believe the polls, then Scotland could be a separate independent nation state within three years. The ratings of the Scottish National Party, led by Alex Salmond, one of the most astutely populist politicians in Britain, and the only party leader to promise a referendum on Scottish independence, have been steadily climbing.

If they were replicated in elections to the Edinburgh parliament, the SNP would be comfortably the biggest single party, with 10 more seats than Labour. To make it worse for Labour, Paddy Ashdown refuses to rule out the possibility that his own party in Scotland might form a coalition with the SNP. Donald Dewar, Labour's chosen candidate as First Minister, has ruled out a coalition with the Tories; but since 56 per cent of Scots said in a recent poll that they would vote for independence in a referendum, such a coalition, as John Curtice pointed out here this week, might be the only way of preventing it.

Nor is this any longer an academic question. The elections are a mere 10 months away. Nobody – including Salmond – can quite bring themselves to believe the polls, particularly the figures on independence; but even a slightly more modest electoral defeat would still be catastrophic for Tony Blair. Here would be a party which promised devolution as a means of safeguarding the Union, conceding defeat, and possibly control of the parliament, to the one party whose raison d'être is to smash the Union. It would be failure on a grand scale. Which is why the Scottish Parliament elections will probably be the most im-

portant single political event next year – and part of the reason why Tony Blair is travelling to Scotland today.

As it happens, his timing is as good as it could be, given the fairly dire circumstances. Many of the reasons for Labour's popularity slump in Scotland are Labour's own fault: council corruption, hubris, internecine strife, tinged with gangsterism, and laughable disorganisation, do not a landslide make. But in the last fortnight there have been some tentative signs that the party's fortunes could at last be improving from their low base. The market-leading *Daily Record* has stopped deifying Salmond and has rather improved as a newspaper in the process – it is not so much slavishly pro-Labour, more a candid friend. Secondly, when the Scottish Industry Minister Brian Wilson exposed, at a Scottish Grand committee meeting last week, the SNP's plans to lift the ceiling on national insurance, cut Miras and increase stamp duty, it began to dawn on the Scottish press that this could mean tax increases of around £1,500 a year. The SNP's rather Draconian response has been to wipe all policy pronouncements from its Internet website. Thirdly, and most important, Gordon Brown's Comprehensive Spending Review week appears to have heartened traditional Labour supporters who are flirting with the SNP as a left-wing alternative to Labour. And finally one of Labour's election whiz-kids, Matthew Taylor, is up in Scotland heading a Millbank-style highly professional election task force.

Labour has a dauntingly large amount of work to do. It has started



**DONALD  
MACINTYRE**  
Does anybody seriously  
doubt that the whole  
of the UK is greater than  
the sum of the parts?

But hang on. Why shouldn't the Scots have independence if they want it? And why on earth should it concern us south of the Border? In so far as they consider Scottish politics at all progressive, English politicians and commentators tend to revel in the unpredictable and pluralist forces unleashed by devolution. And, yes, democracy is not worthy of the name unless it throws up dangerous options as well as safe ones. Scotland – where Tony Blair as Prime Minister, as Callaghan succeeded Wilson, is an example of the English fallacy.

But that does not mean that those outside Scotland should not care. Many of those outsiders who were for devolution are enjoying the present spectacle. And those of us who had severe doubts on the matter have been indulging a sort of Eeyore-ish satis-

faction that all our worst predictions are coming true.

But this will not now do. For the future of Scotland is the future of Britain. In a thoughtful new pamphlet for the Centre for Policy Studies, a pro-devolution Tory, Bill Jamieson, eloquently challenges the idea that an independent Scotland governed under SNP economic policies could prevent a massive brain drain. But he also has sharp words for the English indifference to the "Scottish question" which ignores what the UK's world standing owes to Scotland, from the (post-Union 18th-century enlightenment on, militarily, economically, scientifically, and culturally). Forget about UK membership of the UN Security Council or G7, or of the inner group in the EU if there is no UK to be there. Does anybody seriously doubt that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts? Jamieson does not mention politics. And you may not like Gordon Brown or Alistair Darling or Robin Cook. But does anybody doubt that they hold three of the biggest jobs in the British Government because of their ability? Indeed, the notion that Gordon Brown, sitting in a Scottish seat, could not, because of devolution, one day succeed

as Callaghan succeeded Wilson, is an example of the English fallacy.

The response of the Canadians to the growth of separatism in Quebec has in fact been to elect a series of French Canadians as federal premiers. Their may be reasons in favour of an eventual Brown premiership and reasons against. This, by the way, has nothing to do with the fact that some of Brown's Cabinet colleagues are al-

ready somewhat apprehensive that he substantially extended his grip on government this week by making them sign "contracts" with the Treasury in return for public spending increases. But devolution is not one of them – provided, that is, it does not lead to independence.

It is true that for too long English politicians pretended that Scotland was not another country. But in another elegant treatise, which Blair has read with interest, the defence minister Tony Blair points out yet again that Scottish nationalism fed between 1979 and 1997 on popular frustration not at being governed from Westminster, but at being governed by Tory governments at Westminster. Reid says, as Blair will say today, that there is no conflict between being Scottish and British, and that "the woman on poverty wages in Castlemilk has a great deal in common with a similar woman in Croydon." This invitation to a grown-up politics has been underpinned this week by a public spending announcement that goes to the heart of Scottish social and economic concerns – and gives the Parliament a huge say in how to allocate it. The alternative is an SNP-dominated Edinburgh parliament in which every complaint will be laid at London's door, and which will offer the prospect of continuous referendums on independence until one says yes.

It would be idiocy if, at the very moment when Northern Ireland is beginning to stumble, blinking, into the daylight, Scotland failed to resist the forces trying to drag it backwards into a national politics deformed by an obsession with national status.

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Russian reaction to today's  
burial of the Romanovs



memory of the former ruler and by the laws of life should not in the future count on being respected themselves." *Moskovsky Komsomolets*

"TO SAY nothing about your role as the head of the state, Mr Yeltsin, think of the burial ceremony as a personal repentence. Of course you were brave to leave the Communist party and keep Russia on the right course during the events of 1991 and 1992. Now you must look at the spiritual darkness the majority of the Russians live in.

As a nation we did not repent

of the sins of the terrible Communist regime that we all – except for dissidents – supported. Your participation in this ceremony will help many citizens to repent and will be an important step to save Russia." *Izvestiya*

"THEY HAVE been suggesting that Yeltsin failed to overcome his Ipatiev complex. Communists fear that after the burial of royal remains there inevitably will follow the burial of the imperishable relics of the leader of the world proletariat." *Obozruchaya Gazeta*

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Anything that's done will have to cater for the Sun reader."  
Tim Smit, landscape expert,  
on the design of the Diana memorial gardens

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Quand tout le monde a tort, tout le monde a raison."  
(When everyone is wrong, everyone is right.)  
Nivelle de la Chaussée.  
French playwright

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## PANDORA

TWO OF the lobbying firms at the heart of the Cronygate storm are GJW and GPC Market Access (Derek Draper's former employer). A new survey by the London School of Economics and the Public Affairs Newsletter declares that these two companies "are both rated the most admired public affairs consultancy by their peers, sharing first place". This must have pleased the lads, since it was only on Tuesday that they were reprimanded for "clear breaches" of conduct by their peers at the Association of Professional and Political Consultants. Lobbying is clearly an occupation that demands a high degree of personal conscience from its professionals.

WHERE WAS former Tory Chancellor Nigel Lawson on Saturday, while Gordon Brown put the finishing touches to his Comprehensive Spending Review? In a villa on the Côte d'Azur? On board some millionaire's yacht? No, he was simply relaxing with family in the all-weather dome-covered Center Parcs resort in Elvedon Forest. Perhaps he was seeking a respite from Britain's new political climate.

ONLY TWO weeks old and the Campaign is beginning to bite. Yesterday a number of fervent letters from rucksack proponents arrived on Pandora's desk. One announced, pathetically, "Today marks the birth of the Anti-Anti-Rucksacks On The Tube Campaign". This, from Rosalind Ryan of Pinner, completely misses the point, accusing the Campaign of being against all rucksacks and of being "anti-tourist". The Campaign simply demands that rucksack-bearers behave decently in crowded public places, particularly on the London Underground. We want London Transport to enact and enforce a rule that says rucksacks must be carried by hand during transit, not stowed in someone else's face



DECIDED to play the role of a combat cameraman more than a director." Steven Spielberg (below) says of his forthcoming war film *Saving Private Ryan*. Next Sunday's *New York Times* describes the graphic violence of the as-yet unreleased film: "Body parts are torn away. Blood sprays. Men crumple and scream." Some media previews have actually been sick. Will the director of *ET* please phone home?

THE AMERICAN edition of *GQ* magazine, edited in New York and occasionally found on British news-stands, features a spoof on modern Britain in its August edition. According to a columnist in that bastion of good taste, the *New York Post*, the article is "possibly seditious", "extremely bad taste" and "Condé Nast would be wise not to distribute it" in Britain. (They don't.) Amongst its satires: the Queen in a faked picture wearing a g-string with Union Jack pasties on "her" breasts; Tony Blair inventing new Princess Diana called "Spice Royal"; the Queen getting off with Mohamed Al Fayed. Although Pandora hasn't seen an actual copy yet, it sounds rather silly and queerly.

Unfortunately, James Brown, editor of British *GQ*, is away on holiday so the ex-editor of *Loaded*'s view was unobtainable. In any case, Pandora suspects that the editor of American *GQ* may just be expressing his resentment of all those high-flying British editors (Anna Wintour, Tina Brown, James Truman) whom Si Newhouse, owner of Condé Nast, has favoured over the years.

THE BBC wanted a critical viewpoint for their *World* at One current affairs programme yesterday on the Government's increasing of the social security budget. A researcher called Miranda, looking for a Labour MP, phoned the Beast of Bolsover. "Sure," said Dennis Skinner, never one to pass up a chance to speak for the People's Party. "I'd love to go on." What exactly did they want him to criticise? The fact that more money is going to pensioners? Or the disabled? Or the unemployed? "I would like to draw an analogy," said the Beast, "between the rise in social security and the rise in the BBC licence fee that the fat cats at the BBC are seeking to impose on my hard-pressed constituents, including the unemployed, pensioners and the disabled." He told Miranda he would be round to Millbank in five minutes. But as he was preparing to leave, he got another call from Miranda. "Sorry," she said. "We won't need you after all..."

THE BBC Promenade Concerts roll round again, as inevitable and, on the whole, about as enjoyable as Christmas. I suppose there are people who like their festivities compulsory, and people who prefer to listen to music in an immense auditorium, without discernible acoustics, in sheltering discomfort. Not me; I long ago gave up standing, more recently paying for tickets, and now, as the season kicks off at the Royal Albert Hall tonight with *La Damnation de Faust*, I very happily resign my seat to someone with more enthusiasm and fewer critical faculties.

The concerts are more popular than before, which makes one feel less guilty about not bothering to go. My feeling about bishops; the world is probably marginally the better for their existence, but thank God one doesn't have to endure them in person.

Though I would never have claimed to have been much of a Proms enthusiast, I've certainly had some memorable musical experiences there. In the memory are great performances of familiar



PHILIP HENSHER  
*The Promenaders must be among the least discerning concert-goers in the world*

pieces: Mahler 6 under Temstedt, Dame Gwyneth Jones in the third act of *Die Walküre*. And revelations of the unfamiliar: knockout first performances of Elliott Carter's *Triple Duo* or George Benjamin's *Sudden Time*; a dullish evening unexpectedly enlivened by an orchestra having huge fun with an insanely engaging piece like the Zimmermann trumpet concerto.

Or a mad event, 20 years ago — Pierre Boulez's electronics-and-orchestra fantasy *Repons*, the audience sitting on cushions amid banks of humming machinery.

But in, almost every case, one's feeling was of sweetness wasted on the desert air. People sometimes complain that they can't hear the words in operas; it's not unusual to go to a Prom and be unable to hear quite a lot of the notes. In almost every case, I've left a great performance at the Proms, and thought, well, I hope they repeat it at the Festival Hall.

And it seems to me that remarkable Proms are getting fewer and fewer. The previous director, John Drummond, was a brilliant entrepreneur. His tastes, decided and enthusiastic, were stamped on one programme after another. It was he who marked his departure with the splendid gesture of a ferocious new concerto by Harrison Birtwistle.

Since then, the Proms appear to have gone the same way as Radio 3; they give the impression of being designed by a committee of medics. In place of a strong mind, putting its own enthusiasm on the

stage, there is a sense that some reasonably intelligent people have preferred to second-guess what ordinary people might like. The result is a fatal caution and blandness.

They're worried at the idea of stretching your ears; instead, they'll just give you the sort of stuff an music critic and a lot of administrators think you might like.

Maybe this is a recipe for success, and certainly audiences are no smaller than they were. Perhaps all people want on a hot summer night in Kensington is, after all, a concert they already know with a famous violinist, followed by the Planets suite. Perhaps one ought to praise the BBC for offering anything beyond that.

The new commissions this year strike me as not very adventurous or exciting, but still, there are new commissions, keeping some boy composers from the horrors of paid employment. There are some rarities, some of which will prove worth unearthing. And there are some celebrated visitors, one of which, the Dresden Staatskapelle, might actually tempt even me.

But the single reason which puts me off going is the audience. The

Promenaders in particular must be among the least discerning concert-goers in the world.

Orchestras famously love playing at the Proms, and I don't wonder. Though a great performance of something by a great orchestra will be greeted with rapture, when the same degree of enthusiasm is wheeled out for a third-rate outfit plodding its way through Shostakovich, you might be excused for wondering whether the Promenaders go to hear a piece of music, or just to cheer at the end.

I could put up with their terrible dress sense, their irritating "japes", their silly hats. Perhaps one could even endure the small-minded rigging by the miniature Hitler who patrol up and down, shouting at perfect strangers for letting a friend into the Promenaders' queue, if only one had a sense that they actually liked music, or could tell a great performance from a run-through.

The Proms are about more than music, and we are lucky that the musical substance of them, thanks to the brilliance of previous administrators, is as impressive as it still is. I'm just glad I'm off the hook.

## Nice music, shame about the crowd

**Philip Hensher**  
*The Promenaders must be among the least discerning concert-goers in the world*

## Why do we fund this Bland, Boring, Complacent bunch?



SUZANNE MOORE  
*I object to the way the BBC expects, as a divine right, to be funded by the licence fee*

THE PRICE of civilisation is going up. According to Sir John Birt, the BBC's Director-General, we should pay more to have the "civilising influence" of the BBC in our lives. Executives are pressing the government to increase the licence fee to well over a £100 a year.

It is not only that I object to paying more — I object to the way in which the BBC expects, as a divine right, to continue to be financed in this way. As an institution the BBC is still crippled by bureaucracy overbearing self-importance and a completely patronising attitude towards those who actually watch its programmes.

Just because it has finally realised that it might have to be slightly accountable to those who pay the licence fee, it has belatedly decided to sell itself to the viewers. So what do we get? A charming little video of Lou Reed's "Perfect Day" and a few celebrities telling us what the BBC means to them. It's better than nothing. But not much.

Up until now the BBC has blindly assumed the loyalty of viewers who share its preoccupation with the BBC as a brand name. Now, finally, it has realised it had better do a little more to justify the licence fee. It has, very late in the day, discovered the notion of customer service.

The Reithian loftiness which so bedevils the public image of the BBC is still in evidence. The pronouncements of Birt and Bland show a management that is severely out of touch. Sir Christopher Bland informs us that "the licence fee is bloody good value", comparing it to the Sky package which costs £300 a year. But the point is that people who buy the Sky package have a genuine choice about whether they feel this is good value. Those who feel that their £97.50 does not provide good value may be fined or go to prison if they don't pay it.

vision of the BBC. Many viewers think that they are paying their £97.50 simply to watch television. Commercial stations often tell of viewers ringing up to complain who start by saying, "I'm not paying my licence fee to watch this rubbish..." only to be interrupted and told that, indeed, they are not paying the fee to watch this rubbish.

While an older generation may be attached to the notion of the BBC as the voice of the nation, I doubt that many people under 30 really have much understanding of what they are paying for and why. If you want to find out what the BBC thinks of itself you can queue up for the dire theme park/exhibition "The BBC Experience". This exercise in public relations would not be so bad if a) you did not have to be locked in to watch this orgy of self-congratulation and b) you didn't have to pay for it. Unfortunately, having already paid your licence fee you also have to shell out more money to be told that the BBC really always has been the greatest thing ever.

The problem is not just one of presentation but of agreeing on the image to be presented. Defenders of public service broadcasting emphasise the highbrow qualities of the BBC — its broadsheet news values, its expensive dramas, its educational aspects. The unwashed masses may be lead from comedy into watching something "proper" like *Panorama*. This is the high fibre view of the corporation; it may be dull but it is essentially good for you. The junk food diet provided by other stations may provide instant gratification but it is just not morally healthy. Anyway they say, the BBC is a benchmark which drives up the quality of all broadcasting.

Even if this were true, and I doubt it, we are talking about an institution that produces the National Lottery



The Teletubbies made the BBC £23 million last year

show that has driven its daytime programming downmarket into pale imitations of the "ghastly" American originals and makes money out of selling cuddly toys to toddlers. The BBC, it should never be forgotten, is responsible for releasing Mr Blobby into the community.

The Great Satan of American TV is held up as the future to scare us into paying our licence fee. Yet as I look at what is on offer tonight after I put the kids to bed and want to watch a bit of telly, I have the "choice" of golf (yuk) or the inventive comedy of *Third Rock from the Sun*, which of course is bought from America anyway.

Channel 4, which is commercially funded, has succeeded in breaking down the view of what public service broadcasting might be. Yet we are told that there is not enough advertising revenue to fund the kinds of programmes that the BBC is famous for. Inevitably, however, the arrival of digital television will mean that more and more product is needed and much of it will be bought in or made as cheaply as possible.

The failure of the BBC this year to produce decent sit-coms, drama and arts programming is shameful, yet hardly surprising to anyone who has dealt with the commissioning structure as it currently operates. These people cannot make a decision about what to eat for lunch, never mind commit themselves to a new project.

It's no good talking of the dawning age of digital TV when those in charge at the Beeb exhibit so little understanding of the way that viewers, especially the young ones, watch television. They do not sit there all evening waiting to be educated but zap from channel to channel to find something they want to see.

"You're going to reap just what you sow," as the song says. And so after years of treating the viewing public as peasants who need to be "civilised", it's no wonder that so many of us peasants would prefer to switch sides altogether. Now that we have our own remote controls, we neither want nor need the BBC to assume remote control over us.

## A new constitution for Europe

**WE HAVE** all heard the joke about the "Single European Hell": where the Germans are the lovers, the Italians are the Government, the Belgians write the jokes and the British are the cooks.

Well if there is one vision still more frightening than that is that of the "Single European Car", with 15 driver's seats, 15 brake pedals and 15 accelerators. And if so much as one foot comes off any of the accelerators and onto a brake pedal the whole thing comes to a grinding halt.

And of course, that is how the EU and its component and predecessor bodies have had to operate. Under these circumstances the surprise should not be that the journey has been bumpy or uneven, but that we have made any progress at all.

I want to set out how I believe that Europe can now start to tackle its deficiencies and prepare for the challenges ahead; a crisis of trust amongst its people and the challenge of expansion to the east.

Two months ago I gave a speech setting out the case for early British entry into the Single Currency in some detail.

so I will not labour it. But here are a few reasons why an early move would be so beneficial.

It would relieve the immediate pressure on interest rates and the pound. It would give us a chance to benefit from the European-wide rise in investment which will follow the ending of floating exchange rates. And it would greatly enhance Britain's influence in Europe.

So the Government should come off the fence. Adopt a "declaratory position" on the euro. Say it's right for Britain. Get our institutions, our people, our business, ready for entry. And hold a referendum as soon as practicable.

But if monetary union is the central great challenge, it is not the only one. The other is eastern enlargement. It's now nearly nine years since the Berlin Wall came down. It must not take another nine before democratic governments which emerged from the collapse of socialism across central and eastern Europe are allowed finally to join our European Community.

There are three sets of reforms we need to cope with enlargement. First, reform of the

EU's decision-making processes. The choice is between extension of Qualified Majority Voting and sclerosis.

The challenge is to prevent the EU becoming top heavy, and enable it, instead, to take effective decisions. This applies particularly to the Common Foreign and Security Policy. If, in the next decade, Europe cannot find the will and the means to project our power around our borders to preserve peace, we will not have peace within them either.

Maastricht was, I believe, the last great gasp of the old Europe of elites, the last time that our citizens will allow us to decide on the future by a congress of the great, meeting in mirrored halls. What started with the Congress of Vienna has ended with Maastricht.

In a recent survey just one in six people thought the EU was in touch with its ordinary citizens. There is widespread hostility to the image of "interfering Brussels". The EU is remote. But there is no need for its institutions to feel so remote. They should decentralise more.

The EU is also largely unaccountable, at least visibly.

The Council of Ministers negotiates in a way which would give the term "pork barrel politics" a bad name. And finally, when a decision has been taken, each national government is encouraged to present decisions in terms of its own spin.

Our citizens are becoming increasingly concerned at what seems to them the ever-growing power of European institutions. Here we come back to the dreaded "T" word again. No-one dares say it, but we are building, if not a federal structure, then a structure with clear federal qualities. It is time to acknowledge the fact.

The time has come for us to take the principles and the structure of the European Union and set them out in a Constitution for Europe, which clarifies and settles the relationship between the regions, the nation states and the Union. A framework which increases transparency and accountability in an accessible and readable document. And which provides a more stable framework for the development of democracy in our European institutions.

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## PODIUM

**PADDY ASHDOWN**  
*From a speech by the Liberal Democrat leader to the Centre for European Reform*

EU's farming policies. We need to radically recast the CAP if we are to have any chance of coping with the inefficient, but low cost, farming regimes it will have to take in from the East.

Second, we need to reform the EU structural and cohesion funds. With enlargement we are going to have to face up to the need for a greater transfer of resources from rich to poor member states within the EU.

Third, we need to reform the European Community.

There are three sets of reforms we need to cope with enlargement. First, reform of the

EU's decentralisation more.

The EU is also largely unaccountable, at least visibly.

John Lewis

# Which is the real Mandela?



ANTHONY SAMPSON

How do you connect all the different Mandelas - herboy, lawyer, guerrilla, prisoner, president

TOMORROW PRESIDENT Mandela will be 80, and on Sunday he will attend a huge dinner-party outside Johannesburg, "to celebrate", says the invitation, "this great man's incredible journey from Qunu to Pretoria, from Pretoria to the global centres of the world".

Certainly no other contemporary leader has passed through such contrasted settings, or covered such a historical span, over virtually three centuries: his upbringing was pre-industrial, and his mission education was almost Victorian; yet he still looks ahead to Africa in the next millennium.

But how do you connect up all these different Mandelas: the herboy, the Johannesburg lawyer, the guerrilla leader, the prisoner, the president? It is a daunting task for a biographer.

My own most vivid Mandela is still the ambitious, commanding young politician whom I first met in 1951, when I had just come out from England to become editor of *Drum* magazine. He was obviously impressive, with his boxer's presence and his wide flashing smile, but he seemed stiff, even intimidating.

It was a golden age of writers, musicians and artists - like Harlem in the Twenties. It welcomed anyone who came into it. But the black political world was harder for outsiders to penetrate or understand.

Mandela was in the midst of it, and loves to reminisce about that time. When he introduced me to Prince Charles in Oxford last year he told him: "I first met Tony in a shebeen." But a shebeen was not Mandela's typical setting: he avoided liquor, and spent most evenings politicking or studying.

My most memorable image of him was the tall, solemn figure organising a group of passive resisters in the Defiance Campaign of 1952 as they marched into a township without permits, beginning the long campaign of resistance that led to Mandela's imprisonment.

But to me as to many others, he was not the obvious future leader. He felt himself less intellectually equipped than his mentors, Sisulu and Tambo, and sometimes sounded reckless, needing to be kept in check by elders including Chief Luthuli, the ANC president.



Nelson Mandela faces an uncertain and difficult last few months as President if his regime fails to get backing from Western capital

Glyn Griffiths

He became far more prominent, paradoxically, when he went underground: and he gained stature rapidly after he travelled through Africa and defended himself in his two great trials in 1962 and 1964. But in the early Sixties he was still, as he said later, "a raw revolutionary", impulsive and sometimes amateurish.

It was his prison life that deepened his understanding, and established him as the true leader. "Isn't it hard to write a biography with such a huge gap, when nothing happened?", people have asked me. But it turned out the other way round. His letters, papers and endless discussions in prison show that intellectually everything happened. It was a like an intense play, inside a broader pageant.

At a time of life when most politicians are immersed in power-plays and lose sight of their principles, Mandela read, wrote, argued, reflected and matured to become much more than a politician. He became far more controlled, and less arrogant, because he was inwardly sure of himself.

He was able to make friends with many Afrikaner warders, to see them almost as if they were prisoners themselves, with their own aspirations and fears. And he felt genuinely grateful to those who had helped him, more than has yet been revealed.

Anyone who meets Mandela today is affected by the self-contained calm within him. It is as if part of him still lives in that small prison cell - but it is now the cell of a philosopher who always goes back to first principles and values.

It is a calm that can reassure other heads of state, inside their own gilded cages. "I realise now why Mandela and the Queen get on so well together," one of her courtiers told me. "It's because they've both spent much of their life in a prison."

But Mandela has the added confidence of someone who knows he has been proved right on the basic moral principle on which he has staked his whole life.

Of course, there is a political danger in such certainty. Many leaders, such as Churchill and Gandhi, who

have been proved right on one great issue, can be stubborn, and sometimes wrong, on other issues. But it was Mandela's moral authority which provided the main spring to the reconciliation that followed. Against all the emerging atrocities of apartheid he could always see the best in people, and reach out to the most unpromising ex-enemies.

And when his own people objected, he always held his unstated trump card: how could they dare call him a sell-out, after he had sacrificed half his life to their cause?

But in the last stage of his career Mandela as President faces quite different problems, particularly economic problems that have much less connection with morality - and which are more disillusioning.

Prison had not been the best place from which to observe the massive economic changes in the global market-place in the mid-20th century. And Mandela took some time to recognise that nationalism would damage South Africa's growth.

But having accepted that, he was determined to attract foreign investment, to create new jobs and stimulate the economy. He did his best to give Western bankers and investors what they asked for; he confronted trade unions and Communists, and began to privatise state corporations. Last Tuesday in Soweto the US secretary of the Treasury James Rubin praised his government's policies as being "on the right track".

In return he has got almost nothing from foreign investors, while the South African Rand has been undermined by speculators in the wake of the Asian currency crisis, even though its banking system was far sounder than the Asians'.

"The markets aren't sentimental," commented George Soros in London three weeks ago, when the rand was collapsing. But Soros, who has his own aid projects in South Africa, is concerned that the markets can undermine good regimes as well as bad, unless Western governments help to provide stability.

Mandela has had little help from

African fruit and vegetables access to European markets. In negotiations with the European Union, now coming to a tense climax, the South Africans have been blocked by the Mediterranean countries and by Germany, where Kohl dare not offend his farmers before an election.

Mandela, after all the admiration on his travels abroad, has received, as a birthday present, little practical response to his country's predicament. In his last nine months as President he will find it harder to defend his government's strict economic discipline, against his radical election rivals who point to the lack of any response from international capitalists.

It will be the final irony if Mandela and the black South Africans, having been reconciled to their Afrikaner oppressors, feel betrayed by the Western nations who so praised their moral achievement.

Anthony Sampson's authorised biography of Nelson Mandela will be published next year, when the President retires

## RIGHT OF REPLY

DEREK DRAPER



The controversial former lobbyist responds to criticisms of his behaviour

SOME OF THE COMMENTATORS' and critics' attacks on me have been somewhat personal in tone. Andrew Marr's description of me as a "prat" and Anthony Howard's remark that I was a mere "pipsqueak" typified these types of attacks. The first one I take no issue with, having myself admitted to Suzanne Moore that I was "a bit of a tosser".

The second rankles. Rather than being an objective assessment, it seemed laden with class and against bigotry. What was I, from a comprehensive school, from "unfashionable Chorley" (as another newspaper put it), to mix with the powers that be? That privilege is surely reserved for Mr Anthony Howard and his Oxbridge chums (or is it cronies)?

For some people, I became a symbol of the "new order" that they feel alienated from.

Take Roy Hattersley. Ten years ago I spent my summer stuffing envelopes for Labour's then Deputy Leader when he had been challenged

for that post by Eric Hefter and John Prescott. In this newspaper, Ken Livingstone told the story of when he joined friends and I for a drink in my university flat after speaking at a meeting. Ken was shocked to see I had pinned up a photo of Roy Hattersley, my political hero. My book, *Blair's 100 Days*, is infused with Hattersley's support for redistribution and equality. Yet Roy, too, put the boot in.

Next were the MPs who called for my expulsion. Not at all an attempt get at the leadership through a whipping boy was it. Honourable (sic) Ladies and Gentlemen?

Well, I am sorry to have inadvertently embarrassed the Labour Party, but I would never be disloyal to it. I remain what I always was - a Labour moderate with a big mouth. So prat, yes. Pipsqueak, no. And traitor? Come off it.

## Village life on the edge

AMONG THE many striking characters that pass through this outstanding book is Muthu Bhaskaran, a schoolteacher from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Bhaskaran is also a writer of songs, aimed at - and very popular among - village women. He is best known for a classic entitled "O sister, come learn cycling, move with the wheel of time". It has lines such as: "the men are riding the cycles with the women on the carriers? That's an old story, sister. Let's rewrite it now with you in the driver's seat". To the women who sing it, the bicycle has become a metaphor of freedom.

Palagummi Sainath met this man while tramping through some of India's most impoverished districts. His purpose was to talk and listen to the very poorest. He was, of course, spoilt for choice, since India has the largest number of poor people in the world.

About one-third of all Indians, more than 300 million, live below the poverty line. This is the sort of figure that keeps economic missionaries - World Bank advisers, aid officials, technicians of structural adjustment - in air miles. Yet it is also a statistic that neither they nor the Indian state have been able to fix. Sainath knows his numbers, but he also knows that there is more to know than that. His interest is in who some of these 300 million people are, how they survive - and why they have been so badly served by their state.

His book, already a best-seller in India, brings together reports on subjects such as health, education, the displacement of tribal peoples, the conditions of usury and debt among landless dalits (as many of India's "untouchables" now call themselves), and the water shortages and droughts that threaten and destroy lives. He writes also about individuals, and how these men and women fight against their predicaments. His sardonic observations on this often invisible India establish Sainath as one of the finest



### FRIDAY BOOK

EVERYBODY LOVES A GOOD DROUGHT: STORIES FROM INDIA'S POOREST VILLAGES  
BY P. SAINATH. REVIEW. £14.99

Indian journalists of his generation. He brings alive the world of rural politics, showing how, far from being torpid and unchanging, it seethes with real struggle. Contemptuous of what he calls "fire-brigade journalism", he patiently analyses the entrapping contexts of lives, as well as sketching acute portraits of the rural despots, distillers, poets and artists he encounters. But, though he has almost a novelist's feel for character, he also knows that the heroic individuals beloved of journalists

rarely produce change. For that, collective action is necessary.

This is an angry book, but always clear-headed and never bitter. He indicted the Indian state for its utter failure to meet its duties to its citizens. But, contrary to current fashion, he declines the conclusion that the state must be rejected in favour of such substitutes as the market or the voluntary agencies of "civil society". So he is equally and rightly critical of the belief that non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

can take on the duties of the state. They "cannot be a substitute for the state. They cannot fulfil its responsibilities. The worst of governments has to face the public after five years" - unlike NGOs, accountable only to their donors. And he masterfully picks the "development" afflatus. As he puts it, "development is the strategy of evasion. When you can't give people land reform, give them hybrid cows".

Sainath reserves some of his most deeply felt criticism for his fellow journalists, with their fitful attention to the realities of their own society. It is only when catastrophe strikes in the shape of drought or pestilence, that they become interested.

This critique arises from Sainath's own deep belief in the role of the press: in investigation, argument and criticism as a tool of change. His own book is moving testimony to this conviction. This is journalism of a high order, pointed, well researched, critical, stirring, alive with passion and thought. It deserves the widest readership.

Sainath renders a bleak picture of human oppression, but the world he describes is also one where people have the freedom to remake their lives. Disabling categories such as natural calamities have little place here. And it is a world that, even in its abjection, is being changed. Sainath asks his friend, the song-writing schoolteacher, whether he has ever had reason to look back and find that events have overtaken one of his songs. Yes. Bhaskaran replies: "I felt that way after watching an eight- or nine-year-old dalit girl weave wonderful circles on a cycle late at night in the near-darkness of Ambedkar Nagar village. So I wrote an on-the-spot sequel to my earlier song. This begins: 'Yes, brother, I have learnt cycling. I'm moving with the wheel of time'".

The reviewer's book, *The Idea of India*, is published by Penguin, price £7.99. SUNIL KHLNANI

### FRIDAY POEM

#### OUT SHOOTING

BY KATE BINGHAM

Muddy dogs quarter the marsh  
and the snipe blow cover.  
leaping into cartwheels like a spray of knives.

You squeeze the trigger.  
Little birds are easier to down.  
The pellets fly out in a kind of triangle  
and it only takes one to splinter a wing.

I mark exactly where it fell  
and now the snipe is flapping and kicking  
on the grass, frantic with pain.  
I know I wanted you to fire. The palm of my hand  
still hurts where my nails dug in.

This poem comes from Kate Bingham's first collection, *'Cohabitation'*, just published at £6.95 by Seren Books, 2 Wyndham Street, Bridgend CF31 1EF

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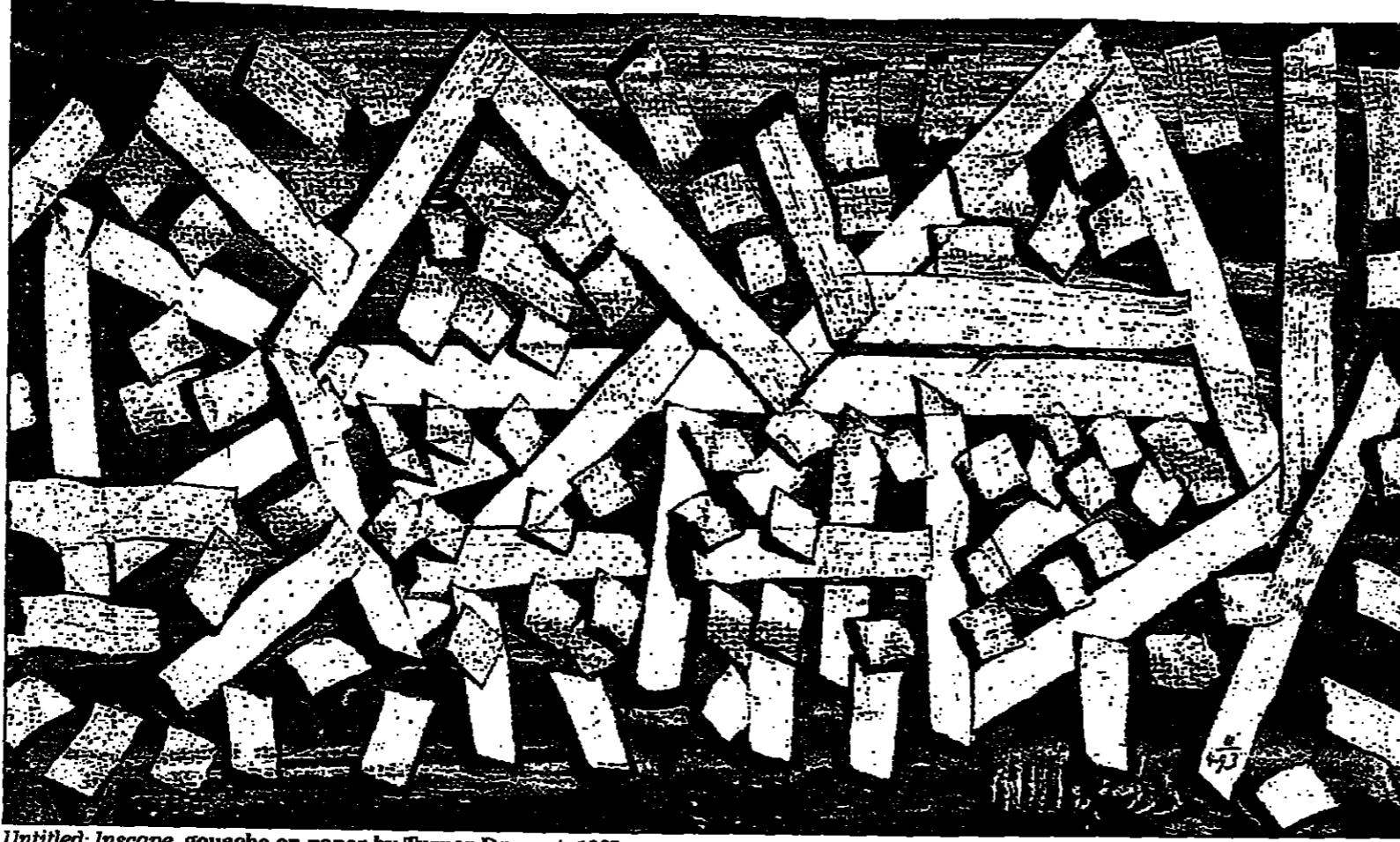
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Jane  
EllisUntitled: *Inscape*, gouache on paper by Turner Durrant. 1963

Belgrave Gallery

## Roy Turner Durrant

THE STYLISTIC influences on Roy Turner Durrant's painting were many, but he hardly seemed to be aware of this, declaring himself to be an instinctive painter who "looked at nature, at women and God's wonderful world". How those influences reached him remains something of a puzzle, since he never attended exhibitions, not even his own, which had to be arranged, transported and hung by dealers reconciled to never setting eyes on him. He was elected to membership of the New English Art Club by members who had never seen, nor would ever see him.

He began his lifelong habit of drawing at the age of five and exhibited his first picture in Bay St Edmunds at the age of 12. Perhaps in response to the pressures put upon this only child, his subject was flight. He filled his drawing books obsessively with aircraft and took this obsession through his juvenile years into membership of the Air Training Corps Squadron for airborne experience.

Such could be the exigency or per-

versity of the times, however, that he was conscripted into the Army to spend war service with the Suffolk Regiment until 1947. The experience was abhorrent to him as to many another, the company he had to keep disturbing him more than the dangers involved.

Surviving intact, he gained admission to the Camberwell School of Art, but even its relatively congenial company there left him ill at ease, inhibiting as much as advancing his development as an artist. The Euston Road teachers there, Victor Pasmore, William Coldstream and Claude Rogers, made little impression on him but he gained a lot more from the presence of Keith Vaughan and John Minton, whose Neo-Romantic ideas gave him direction. Turner Durrant was nevertheless relieved to gain his National Diploma in Design and to settle to paint in isolation as best he could.

This was never to be easy. His work never became sought after enough to sustain him and his family and from the start he had to take jobs outside his cho-

sen profession. From 1956 to 1963 he was employed in an administrative capacity at Vickers in London, then, having married in 1959, he moved to Cambridge, where he managed the Heffer Art Gallery until 1976, a job that left him uncomfortably on public view when he had long since discovered himself to be a reclusive loner, ill at ease in human company outside his home. At Heffer's, however, I found him open to conversation, if without any easing of his formal manner, talking art keenly, if only to shield himself from the approach of customers who could safely be left to others. Invariably on private view days he found cause to stay at home.

He held strong sympathies for his fellow artists and penned many a tribute to those who had died. He simply preferred painting and drawing and the written word as his means of communication. A book of his poems, *A Rag Book of Love*, was published in 1960.

From Gerard Manley Hopkins he borrowed the word "inscape" to fit his evocations of the Suffolk landscape of his

upbringing. Like all those post-war Neo-Romantics who began from the influence of Samuel Palmer and his circle of "Ancients", Roy Turner Durrant went his distinct way, soon evolving into abstraction, into forceful, textured, organic images that are metaphors for the landscape he would cherish for life. Eshewing representation, these works are essentially of the mother earth, moving from rough to smooth as from land and vegetation to sky and water; the colours taken from the seasons dawn to night.

If those influences remain apparent, it was always easy to spot the commanding presence of a Turner Durrant in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions to which he contributed almost annually.

Anthony Day

*Roy Turner Durrant, artist and poet; born Lavenham, Suffolk 4 October 1925; married 1959 Jean Lyell (three sons, and one son deceased); died Cambridge 3 July 1998.*

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### BIRTHS

**DIX**: On 14 July, at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, to Rowan (Burstein) and John, third daughter, Melissa Margaret.

### DEATHS

**BERGER**: Nan, died peacefully at home, 16 July, aged 84. Funeral on Friday 24 July, 12 noon, at Golders Green Crematorium. Donations to District Nursing Service, or flowers to Leverton, 149 Kentish Town Road, London NW3.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £1.50 a line (VAT extra).

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of York attends a dinner in aid of the York Millennium Mystery Plays, in the Treasury House, York Minster. The Princess Royal attends the closing ceremony of the Confederation Internationale des Officiers de Réserve (CIOR) Congress, at the Brighton Centre, Brighton, East Sussex; opens Phase II of the development of Conquest Hospital at St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex; and, as President, Save the Children Fund, attends a reception at the Unigate Golf Day, Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

### BIRTHDAYS

**Sir Hardy Amies**, dressmaker, 89; **Baroness Anelay of St Johns**, former Vice-President, Conservative Party, 51; **Mr Richard Barker**, former Headmaster, Sevenoaks School, 59; **Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor**, actor, 58; **Mr Mark Burgess**, cricketer, 58; **Miss Diahana Carroll**, actress and singer, 63; **Mr Alan Cottrell**, former Master, Jesus College, Cambridge University, 79; **Miss Phyllis Diller**, comedienne and concert pianist, 81; **Mr Patrick Egan**, former chairman, Fisons, 68; **Mr William Etherington** MP, 57; **Mr Ray Galton**, scriptwriter, 68;

**Baroness Gardner of Parkes**, dental surgeon, 71; **Mr W. Gordon Graham**, publisher, 78; **Mr Eric Hammond**, trade union leader, 68; **Lord Hardy of Bath**, former MP, 67; **Mr John Harper**, former deputy managing director, British Telecom, 68; **Lord William Henderson**, microbiologist, 85; **Sir William Heseltine**, former Private Secretary to the Queen, 68; **Lord Lane**, former Lord Chief Justice of England, 80; **The Right Rev David Lunn**, Bishop of Sheffield, 68; **Lord Patten**, former MP, 53; **Dr Marjorie Reeves**, historian, 33; **Mr Andrew Robathan** MP, 47; **Mr Peter Sissons**, television presenter and newscaster, 56; **Mr Wayne Sleep**, dancer and choreographer, 50; **Lt-Col Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson**, an extra equerry to the Queen, 69; **Sir Kenneth Stowe**, former senior civil servant, 71; **Mr Donald Sutherland**, actor, 63; **Mr Bob Taylor**, cricketer, 57; **Sir David West-Russell**, former judge and president of Industrial Tribunals, 77; **Mr P.D.V. Wilkes**, Headmaster, Cheltenham College, 57; **Mr Terrell Wyatt**, chairman, W.S. Atkins Ltd, 71.

### ANNIVERSARIES

**Births**: Isaac Watts, hymn writer and author of "O God,

### GAZETTE

**Our Help in Ages Past**, 1674; **John Jacob Astor**, fur trader and merchant, 1763; **Hippolyte-Paul Delaroche**, painter, 1797; **Martin Farquhar Tupper**, writer, 1810; **Ignace Leybach**, pianist and composer, 1817; **John August Södermann**, composer, 1832; **Friedrich Gernsheim**, pianist and composer, 1839; **Sir Donald Francis Tovey**, musicologist, 1875; **Maxim Maximovitch Litvinov** (Wallach), Soviet leader, 1876; **Erle Stanley Gardner**, novelist and creator of "Perry Mason", 1899; **Mary Clare**, actress, 1894; **James Cagney**, actor, 1899; **Christina Elin Stead**, novelist, 1902.

**Deaths**: **William Somerville**, poet, 1742; **Adam Smith**, political economist and writer, 1790; **Charlotte Corday**, murderer of Jean Paul Marat, executed 1793; **Charles Grey**, second Earl Grey, statesman, 1845; **John Lingard**, historian, 1851; **James Abbott McNeill Whistler**, painter, 1903; **Alvaro Obregon**, president of Mexico, assassinated 1928; **George William Russell** ("Æ", poet, 1935); **Henri-Constant Gabriel Pierne**, organist and composer, 1937; **Billie Holiday** (Eleanora Holiday), jazz singer, 1959.

**On this day**: The Moors defeated the Spanish at the Battle of Fraga, 1134; the Hundred Years' War ended after the defeat of the English at Castillon, 1453; Martin Frobisher reached Baffin Land, 1577; the Bridgewater Canal, linking Worsley and Manchester, opened, 1761; the Swedish Fleet was destroyed by the Russians, 1788; Thomas Saint patented the first sewing machine, 1790; the Champs de Mars massacre by the Marquis de La Fayette restored order in Paris, 1791; the humorous magazine *Punch* was first published, 1841; the Battle of Wai-Zen ended, 1849; George Phillips Bond, astronomer, made the first photograph of Europe, was the guest of

a star, 1850; General Havelock took Cawnpore after defeating Nana Sahib, 1857; **Cecil Rhodes** became prime minister of Cape Colony, 1890; **Dr Robert Bridges** became Poet Laureate, 1913; the Potsdam Conference was held to consider the occupation of Germany, 1945; Disneyoland opened in California, 1955; the first London performance of the musical comedy *Oh, My Pop!* was staged, 1957; the musical show *Irma La Douce* was first performed, London, 1958; Donald Campbell reached a speed of 429.3mph in his Bluebird car at Lake Eyre, South Australia, 1964; the US Apollo spacecraft and the Russian *Soyuz* ship docked successfully while in orbit, 1975; the Humber Estuary Bridge was opened, 1981.

**Today is the Feast Day of St Clement of Okhrada and his Companions**, St Emodius, St Kefelin, St Leo IV, Pope, St Marcellina, St Nereus Lampronius, The Seven Apostles of Bulgaria, St Speratus and his Companions. The Carmelite Martyrs of Compiègne and The Martyrs of Scilliun.

**LECTURES**  
**National Gallery**: Mari Grifith. "Sight (ii): Spectators at the Theatre: Renoir, Degas and Cassatt", 1pm, Victoria and Albert Museum; Francis Pugh. "Sitting Comfortably? 20th-century furniture design", 2pm.  
**Tate Gallery**: Vivien Knight. "Patrick Heron: painting and writing", 1pm.

**DINNERS**  
**European-Atlantic Group**

A dinner was held yesterday evening by the European-Atlantic Group at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. Mr Douglas Henderson, Minister for Europe, was the guest of

honour, and spoke on "The British Presidency of the European Union". Lord Judd of Portsea was the chairman. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein also spoke. Among the guests were:

Sir Frederic and Lady Bennett; Sir Michael and Lady Burton; Sir Cecil and Lady Burney; Countess and Count D'Albret; Lady Gifford; Lady Kilkenny; The Earl of Limerick; Princess Helena Mouttford; Michele, Lady Renouf; Lady Ross; Baron and Baroness Robert Routhchild.

### CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Russell Gray, Rector, Lane Cove St Andrew's, Sydney (Australia), to be Priest-in-Charge, The Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France; Canon Kenneth Beale, Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St Stephen, and Deacon, The Revd Ian Jackson, Priest-in-Charge, Cringlough (same diocese); The Revd Alan Bowles, Chaplain, HMP Hailsham; The Revd Alan Bowles, Chaplain, HMP Hailsham; The Revd Ian Jackson, Rector, Lane Cove St Andrew's, Sydney (Australia), to be Priest-in-Charge, Cringlough (same diocese); The Revd Simon Stevenson, Team Vicar, Kynaston, and Chaplain, Royal Garrison Church, Portsmouth (same diocese); The Revd Kenneth Vick, Vicar, Alton (Hampshire); The Revd Alan Bowles, Chaplain, HMP Hailsham (same diocese); The Revd Ian Jackson, Rector, Lane Cove St Andrew's, Sydney (Australia), to be Priest-in-Charge, Cringlough (same diocese); The Revd Simon Stevenson, Team Vicar, Kynaston, and Chaplain, Royal Garrison Church, Portsmouth (same diocese); The Revd Kenneth Vick, Vicar, Alton (Hampshire); The Revd Alan Bowles, Chaplain, HMP Hailsham (same diocese); 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## NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

## Give the Americans a king and see how they get on

I AM reading *Bring Home the Revolution: How Britain Can Live the American Dream*, by Jonathan Freedland. Freedland spent four years in Washington as correspondent for *The Guardian* and his conclusion is that Britain needs to become much more like America. In particular, he thinks Britain ought to become a republic.

He's got it backwards, poor lad. As someone who's spent three years in New York I've come to the conclusion that America needs to become much more like Britain. In particular, America would benefit immensely from having a monarchy.

It's one of the reigning orthodoxies of our era that Britain's

class system, buttressed by the monarchy, is an unqualified curse. I'm not so sure. The crucial difference between Britain and America isn't that one is class-bound, the other a perfect meritocracy. American society is every bit as stratified and hierarchical as our own.

The difference is that whereas we acknowledge that who your parents are and where you went to school affect your life-chances, Americans stubbornly maintain that the only determinants of success are hard work and natural ability.

The fact that we recognise the importance of luck in the equation means we don't take successful people all that seriously



and we don't regard the unsuccessful as being beneath contempt.

In America, by contrast, where everyone is mistakenly believed to have an equal chance, the lucky few with all the money and power are worshipped and the rest are dismissed as "losers". Over here, there's no such thing as the deserving poor. On the contrary, the poor are labelled "trailer trash" and held up for ridicule on television programmes like *The Jerry Springer Show*.

The British monarchy is a constant reminder that there's something irrational about how well you do in life's game of snakes and ladders. After all, what could be more absurd than making a member of the lucky sperm club the head of state?

Having witnessed the horrors of living in a society in which everyone believes their status is thoroughly deserved, I would recommend we hang on to the House of Windsor for as long as we possibly can.

A GREAT deal of hand-wringing and soul-searching is taking place in the American media at

the moment, after a succession of scandals. First came the discovery that Stephen Glass, a star writer for *The New Republic*, had fabricated all or part of 37 of the 41 articles he had written for that venerable liberal journal. Then came the news that another journalist, Patricia Smith, had invented some of the characters she had written about in her *Boston Globe* column. Both Glass and Smith were summarily dismissed.

Now we learn that the com-

bined report by CNN and *Time* magazine exposing the American military's use of poison gas in Laos was false. The joint report – an example of the media's much-trumpeted "synergy" – has been retracted by both CNN and *Time*. This time the axe has fallen on the report's producer, April Oliv-

er. Personally, I can't see what all the fuss is about. Having cut my journalistic teeth on Fleet Street, I always take everything I read in newspapers and see on television with an enormous pinch of salt.

When I was a news trainee in Wapping in 1986, I remember hearing about something called the "true-story alert" that the news editor of *The Sun* kept on his desk. The paper's editor at that time, Kelvin Mackenzie, had apparently once congratulated the news editor on that day's splash and he'd replied, "Yeah, and what's more, Kelvin, it's true."

Mackenzie was so discomfited by this information that he bought the news editor an airtight and told him to sound it every time an accurate story crossed his desk – the "true-story alert". Needless to say, it was not sounded very often.

Having said that, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that everything you read in this column is 100 per cent true.

A HOT publishing trend in New York at the moment is women writing about their love affairs with distinguished literary gents of yesteryear. Last month saw the publication of *Here But Not Here*, Lillian Ross's memoir of her affair with the *New Yorker* editor William Shawn, and this October we can look forward to *At Home in the World*, Joyce Maynard's account of her romance with JD Salinger.

In New York publishing circles these books are known, rather pompously, as "confessional memoirs". Not so long ago, my friend Sally Ann Lasson published a "confessional memoir" in *The News of the World* about her affair with Charles Spencer.

In Britain, of course, such reminiscences are called "kiss-and-tells". If only Spencer had written a novel, perhaps she could sell her story again to a New York publishing house.

THERE ARE three power centres

in the United States – New York, Washington and Los Angeles – and there is no love lost between them. Angelinos, in particular, are consumed with jealousy of New Yorkers and their claim to be so much cooler and smarter than the air-heads on the west coast.

You don't believe me? Take three of this summer's biggest blockbusters, *Deep Impact*, *Godzilla* and *Armageddon*. In all three films, which were of course made in Hollywood, New York is almost completely destroyed.

In *Deep Impact*, a tidal wave leaves Manhattan hundreds of feet under water; in *Godzilla*, a giant lizard knocks over the city's monuments like so many sandcastles; in *Armageddon*, giant rocks tear through New York's famous skyline as if it were made of tissue paper.

The husband of an acquaintance recently wrote a piece for *New York* magazine which speculated about what might happen if Manhattan suffered a catastrophic earthquake. Apparently, the city is built on a large geological fault line, just like Los Angeles. Needless to say, the movie rights were snapped up by Hollywood in a New York minute.

The culture is changing – but only slowly. Meanwhile, courts in Britain need to be more understanding. By Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

## A new age for Asian women

YET ANOTHER story involving violence in the British Asian community has hit the headlines – the fourth this summer. In all the cases justice and cultural behaviour clashed to produce a dust-storm of incomprehension and, in some cases, injustice.

In May, Zoraa Shah, a middle-aged woman, lost her appeal against conviction for poisoning her lover – a convicted drug dealer who was still, somehow, considered to be a bastion of the Bradford Muslim community after allegedly suffering abuse at his hands.

The judges could not understand her when she said that she did not feel free to tell anyone of her abuse.

Two other cases involved parents and in-laws seriously abusing young women in their families for not showing due obedience. They claimed they were merely following their culture, but the courts (rightly) convicted them anyway.

And now we have another case of murder with similar complexities.

Baljeet Singh Rai, an illegal immigrant, married Manjot Kaur, at least partly to stay in

this country. She had been married before and had a lover when this marriage took place. She had a child from her first marriage and two more with her lover, Harjit Singh Luther Rai, one-time star hockey player, found them in bed together and beat Luther to death with his hockey stick.

Manjot Kaur watched and was present when Rai buried the body but she was acquitted because she argued that, as an Asian wife, she had no free will. She was the property of her husband, she said, and that statement had a profound truth that is barely understood or known by even the most enlightened and sympathetic white people in Britain.

Like the others, this case is an acting out of the tensions between traditions and change, the realities of immigration and the complexities that arise in multicultural societies. It is about the fundamental values of this country and the enormous changes taking place in the lives of minority groups with different core beliefs.

Even I find it shocking that obviously traditional women such as Manjot and Zoraa were

caught up in such sordid lifestyles. What I can understand, though, is how it can happen and how little choice they had.

All our myths, religious texts, popular songs and films – the most important determinants of

*As an Asian wife she had no free will. She was the property of her husband*

culture – tell us that we are but on loan to our own families and that the role of our parents is to hand us over to our husbands and families who will then control us. We are never to be free agents.

Little wonder there is so much time set aside for weeping at our weddings.

In some ways, of course, Victorian women in this country were also chattels. But although novels and moral codes reinforced this ownership, there was not the pervasive influence that comes out of the

thousands of years of myth that we have in our cultures.

Sita, the symbol of perfect womanhood in the *Ramayana*, is virtuous, strong and obedient to Ram, her god and her husband. There are many others: Draupadi and Damayanti, wives with goddess-like patience, are revered because they lived up to what was expected of them.

This is one of the biggest battles that extraordinary Indian feminists such as Madhu Kishwar have to fight. In her book *Gandhi and Women* she describes how Gandhi tried to change these beliefs in subtle ways by extending the descriptions of these mythical women.

He did this because he was committed to the creation of a new woman in India, someone who was connected to the culture and religion but able to defy convention.

He needed their force for his national struggle and so he redefined Sita and rejected utterly the idea that women should be seen as the tools or slaves of men. Autonomy, fearlessness and the right to say no were non-negotiable rights, he said. And yet, 50 years on, far too

many Asian women remain without even a sense of free will.

This, ironically, is even more true of British Asian women than of middle-class Indian and Pakistani women. People from the diaspora often become more stubbornly conservative than those who have never left their countries.

Change is coming. Men and women are increasingly developing a sense of a partnership rather than ownership of one by the other. But the tradition is deep and long.

Many of us are also concerned that, in throwing out the worst aspects of our cultures, we will also surrender values which we hold dear. For example, respecting older members of the family without permitting them to own you.

Meanwhile, it is imperative that those running institutions – especially key ones such as courts – should acquire a deeper awareness about Asian women in this country without resorting to stereotypes.

In the case of Manjot this clearly did happen. But in cases such as Zoraa's, the blindness and deafness of justice are surely indefensible.

continued from page 1  
to train for the priesthood one of them was convinced that Jeremy Beadle was about to appear," he recalled in his study-bedroom in the Oxford hall of residence.

Stephen France's story throughout the Thatcher years had given no real clue to his eventual destination. He had been born into a strong church-going family in Sheffield, but had become disenchanted with the institution during his teens and dropped away. He had been intending to become a doctor but, at the last minute, withdrew from medical school – "The eight years of training seemed too much of a commitment" – and drifted into a series of temporary jobs. When he got one in the civil service, he found himself being constantly promoted and put on a fast track which took him to the DfT, forming policy and writing speeches for ministers. Yet always he had "this vague sense that I was being trained for something, but this was not it. I enjoyed the job but I knew there was something not quite right." It took several years to come into focus.

Such experiences are not isolated. "These people are a mirror reflecting back a challenge to society," says the Roman Catholic priest, Fr John Armitage, who is chairman of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocations Directors. "People are undoubtedly influenced by the social climate and the discourse of the times and the Nineties is a more questioning decade," says Rev John Clarke, principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, an Anglican training college.

And yet to see the upturn in vocations as some kind of reaction to the uncaring years of Thatcherism is simplistic.

From his metropolitan perspective Stephen France, a Tory voter, saw those years as "a boom-time, when expectations were aroused. There was money. People could do anything. There was optimism which has gone now". But, more profoundly, it assumes a historical perspective which many of the younger people answering the call do not share.

"It's just old-fashioned," says Stephen Wang. "It's not about turning your back on the world. It's not even about giving things up." Fr Wang is 31, and a newly-ordained Roman Catholic priest. "For my generation it was about discovering something new, something which made sense of the world."

Religion did not impinge upon him until he was a sixth-former – "it was just the usual round of school, friends, pubs, cinemas" – but two things coincided. The standard adolescent texts – *Catcher in the Rye*, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and *The Tao-te Ching* – aroused his intellectual curiosity. And he also started going out with a Catholic girl – he went to Mass with her on a Sunday evening, mainly so they would have more time together. "The two things came together. I had known that the question What

## The calling



An interior life

is Life About? would have more than an intellectual answer. It came in seeing the Catholic religion worked out in a day-to-day, humdrum way."

The monk Raphael, when he turned up after lunch, was as talkative as his superior. He was not exactly a novice. True, he had only been in St Hugh's a year. But he had been for 19 years before that, at the motherhouse at Grande Chartreuse in France, where the lay brethren distill the famous green liqueur of the same name.

Still in an order where formation takes a decade and monks are not allowed to assume any responsibility until they have been a dozen years in the cloister, he was as near a new vocation as was going to get. "You're lucky to get in at all," he said. "When the Prior at Grande Chartreuse was asked to admit outsiders so they could carry the message of what we did have: 'We're not here to preach or to show, but to witness by our silence. We have nothing to say, it is enough that we are here in silence.'"

Fr Cyril took a slightly different view. "The monastery is the image of the abbot." Fr Raphael said with clear approbation. After 20 years a novice master at the mother house, he had been sent to England to rescue the failing Charter House, whose ten ageing monks had been buffeted by the hurricanes of 1987 and had lost the monastery's spire and parts of the roof. Under him the place has been rebuilt – he even secured a sizeable grant from English Heritage (they are, after all, the biggest cloisters in the world). He has made the liturgy more accessible: "The readings, prayers and psalms are all in the vernacular, though the Gregorian chant remains in Latin, of course." Under Fr Cyril's regime the monks are even allowed to remove their hair shirts if they develop eczema.

Fr Raphael's background is even more exotic than those the Prior had sketched earlier. Born in Brazil, he was an officer in the army there and when his national service was over he set out to travel. After six months in Brazil he moved to Europe and then worked his passage to Australia, where he worked in a mine. He crossed the Australian desert on a motorbike and then travelled back to Europe through the Far East. In Nepal he fell seriously ill with hepatitis. "I was travelling, looking for girls, for pleasure. Then I fell ill and all at once I saw the emptiness of human satisfaction. Suddenly I had the certitude that God existed. People who come here to the Charter House, God has stopped them all somewhere. I came here and found that what I was searching for over the wide of the world was to be found in the depth of myself."

Many of those who feel the call to God report similar dramatic moments. Allison Waterhouse was passing the communion wine on her retreat when she heard a voice which said, "This is what I want you to do." "Nothing like that had ever happened to me," she recalls. "I had a kind of breakdown, but when I came back home I was at peace."

It is not always dramatic, but in retrospect it always seems clear. Stephen Wang, after he became a Catholic, worked on a children's camp, at Lourdes with the disabled, and at one of Mother Teresa's houses without any thought of the priesthood.

Alison Waterhouse was passing the communion wine on her retreat when she heard a voice which said, "This is what I want you to do."

"Nothing like that had ever

happened to me," she recalls.

"I had a kind of breakdown, but when I came back home I was at peace."

The outside doors to the food batches in the Cistercian monastery had no handles. They could only be opened with a special key in the possession of the meal distributor. "I'm sure it would not happen today," twinkled Fr Raphael.

"But in the past a monk whose

sense of charity was not fully developed might perhaps have taken some of his brother's cheese. Because we are in here does not mean we are better or different. I am a sinner; it is just that I have been called."

He showed me to the huge, wooden gate. "Either you put the sense of your life in the here and now" or you run after time," he said, laughing, just before he closed the door. I walked a few paces and turned. Suddenly I could not work out whether he had been locked in or I had been locked out.

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Your local pub will never be the same again. Leave your dignity at the door, the theme pub is here to stay. By Nick Lizard

## Two pints of lager and a silly hat, please

**T**he story of Donald Cameron, the publican who killed himself because the Birmingham bar he managed was to become a Sevenies theme pub called Flares, is a peculiarly resonant and horrible one. What bothered Cameron was not just the idea behind the makeover, but the specific demand that he wear Seventies clothing and a wig. He had turned up for a so-called dummy run in his normal suit and tie, and been reprimanded for this by a lackey from the brewery. Bass relented on the wig, but the outfit - flares, one supposes, and a kipper tie and an orange shirt with enormous collars - was mandatory. Cameron wondered whether he would be able to command respect from customers and staff in such an outfit. A good question - especially as Bass ruefully said that Cameron was a "highly respected" manager.

It is possible that the directors of Bass - who do not have to go to work dressed like idiots - feel some contrition at this turn of events. They might privately feel, though, that Mr Cameron over-reacted somewhat to the situation. After all, he was an employee of the company, wasn't he? And if you are a company's employee, then you do what you are told. Don't you? And if the choice is between wearing stupid trousers and losing your job, then what is wrong with wearing the stupid trousers.

Obviously, Cameron thought there was something very wrong with wearing the stupid trousers. At 39, he doubtless remembered them the first time round. And even if killing yourself over something like this looks a little extreme, it is not hard to imagine that Cameron was facing other, private pressures, and that this was what pushed him over the edge.

One hardly knows where to start, although saying that Bass have blood on their hands would not be a very good idea. It is not true, for a start, and I am not just backing away from a corporate manslaughter charge because Bass, the country's second largest brewer, make enough money in five minutes to hire the most expensive lawyers in the world. Perish the thought. But it would be nice if they could reflect on their policies, particularly on their policies relating to theme pubs, and their policy on human dignity, and ask them to visit that dusty, locked filing cabinet of the corporate soul marked "conscience".

*Theme pubs are rubbish. I do not go in them because I am not a moron*

In a way, I am not the right person to write about theme pubs, mainly because I do not make a point of drinking in them. I try and keep out of them, although I am not so principled that if the only choice is between not having a drink at all and going to a theme pub, then I go to a theme pub. But I rarely end up in such a fix. Because theme pubs are rubbish. Let me explain in brutally simple terms. I do not go into theme pubs because I am not a moron.

Does that sound snobbish? I do not give a damn if it does. Because theme pubs were deliberately introduced by brewers - terrified by the growth in popularity of Ecstasy and dope - in a desperate attempt to woo young potential drinkers. And when you combine youth and alcohol, you

get moronism. I am sorry, but that is the way it is. The brewers know this, and they are happy about it, because it is a lot easier to make money out of drunken idiots than practically anyone else.

What is particularly revolting and distressing about theme pubs is the glorification of the fake, the eruption of money-driven kitsch (the worst kind). It has got so bad that even when one finds a nice, unspoilt pub, one suspects that it has been themed in its way by the heritage industry, and that there is nowhere you can get an unpoisoned pint any more.

The last two or three years have seen a big rise in the number of bogus Irish establishments. On the face of it, it could have been worse. The ideal Irish pub is a wonderful place, tends not to have a carpet, and has a rafish, bashed-about air about it. So at least the brewers were not trying to cram us all into places built to look like The Orient Express, or the set of *Boogie Nights*, or a hospital waiting room, or whatever. Unfortunately, what they cannot reproduce is the patina of age, the sense of security and stolidity, the knowledge that everything has been

like that for a hundred years; that a winning formula has been found and will not be changed. But the fake Irish pub makes a mockery of all of this. There is one opposite the British Library which has been done up to look like a "real" pub-cum-newspaper; and once I thought it would be a laugh to go to the counter and ask for a copy of the *Official Independent* with my Guinness, and kick up a fuss when they said they did not actually sell papers. Only I realised it would not be that much of a laugh really, and decided not to have a drink at all.

George Orwell wrote a famous essay for the *Evening Standard* in

1946 about his favourite pub: "Its whole architecture and fittings has been uncompromisingly Victorian ... The grained woodwork, the ornamental mirrors behind the bar, the cast-iron fireplaces, the florid ceiling stained dark yellow by tobacco smoke, the stuffed bull's head over the mantelpiece - everything has the solid, comfortable ugliness of the 19th century." You could also get draught stout (then a rarity on the mainland), children could play in the garden, and you could get decent lunches and sandwiches. He called it "The Moon Under Water", and the whole point about it was that it did not exist. So what do we have now? A chain of

pubs whose names begin with "The Moon ...", which have too wide a selection of beers (if you have too many real ales in a pub, some get neglected and go off), and which look

and money that it can make its employees dress up like Ronald McDonald if they so choose, and tough shit on them if they don't see the funny side. (And does a Seventies theme pub sell Watneys Red Barrel, and all the other foul piss-like brews that CAMRA so nobly routed - or the modern, cleverly-marketed foul, piss-like brews such as Cafrey's? And the last laugh is on the punters, who are in effect being told that they do not have an imagination of their own. (And the managers are really being told that.)

"There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by

a good tavern or inn." (It is a shame that when you see that Dr Johnson quote written up on the wall of a pub, you had better turn on your heel and go for a drink somewhere else.) Well, unfortunately, happiness does not produce a big enough profit margin: novelty and fun factories do. (As if there is not enough fun going on in your head when pleasantly bevvied and among friends.) There was a Lowry cartoon a couple of years ago - in *Private Eye*, I believe it was - in which a sozzled barfly announced: "This is a theme pub - and the theme is getting drunk." I wonder if anyone has run that idea up the flagpole lately?



Themed bars like this 'Oz pub' are coming to a local near you

Adrian Dennis

## Turning women into swine

A shocking debut novel in which a woman becomes a pig has the beau monde squealing. By Jasper Rees

rational answer," says Darriussecq. "Maybe there was something in the air, a sort of anguish about the body, and I just touched it, just as you touch a balloon and it bursts. I think my novel talked about the body from a very inside point of view. All women live inside -



Mari Darriussecq: "The novel talks about the body from a very fleshly point of view" Alastair Millar

The novel is the most startling literary debut France has seen for 40 years. Written in six weeks in early 1996, it was bought by a publisher in May of that year, rushed out by August, and duly sold 300,000 in hardback, another 140,000 in paperback. Libraries had to buy extra copies. It has since ap-

peared in 35 countries: the English translation has just come out in Britain.

We meet for lunch in a small bustling restaurant down a quiet street near the Pompidou Centre. She lives in the suburbs, but plans to spend some of her wealth by moving there.

Pig Tales initially caused ructions on her own doorstep. Some of her family were "a bit shocked, because they knew me as a little girl". She was brought up in Bayonne, where the ham comes from, but no one had expected her to don a cap to those roots quite so sizzingly.

The biggest hole blown in her life by her success was the end of her seven-year marriage. "My husband was my

## THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Photo: AP, G. H. P. / Gamma

## Chief whip

'I imagine flogging someone is pretty exhausting, isn't it? How many would you do in a day?' 'Not many - but I might do longer sessions.' 'What's a long session?' 'The longest I like to do is 10 hours.'

Paul Theroux meets the bondage queen of New York

Fancy freezing your body for a future life? You'd better check on the rabbit's kidney first. By Simon Hadlington

The concept of suspended animation has for decades fired the imagination of science fiction writers. The idea that a functioning human body can be "closed down" to be revived at some point in the future has been the launching pad for many a fantastic yarn. Predictably in the United States, a growing number of people are desperately hoping that life will imitate art and are signing up to the pseudo-science of "cryonics".

For a sum of money (a brief search on the Internet gives the range from \$28,000 for a budget package to \$150,000 for the full works), dead or dying people can be frozen in liquid nitrogen "in the hope that medical science will be able to revive that person in the future, when life extension and anti-ageing have become a reality." Woody Allen's movie *Sleeper*, where our hero wakes up in the future, took such fantasy as its jumping-off point in to an unrecognisable world where all media and thought are carefully managed by government. At least, it seemed like fantasy the first time.

Back in the real world, mention of cryonics to Dr David Pegg immediately elicits a gentle sigh. Dr Pegg is director of the medical cryobiology unit at York University, the only dedicated research laboratory of its kind in the country.

"Ah, the body-freezing brigade," he says. "Look, we can't even cryopreserve a rabbit's kidney yet, so you sure can't do a whole person. And remember, researchers are dealing with perfectly healthy tissues and organs, while these are people who have, by definition, died of something which was fatal. Freezing is simply a way of preserving your corpse. You might as well have it immersed in formaldehyde, a much cheaper option."

Dr Pegg's laboratory, on the other hand, is taking a cool, scientific look at how it might be possible to overcome some of the fundamental difficulties in attempting to store mammalian tissues at low temperatures so that they remain functional when they are warmed up again. The ultimate aim is to enable a wide range of human tissues to be preserved in special banks for use in surgery.

"The idea of cryopreservation is that by lowering the temperature, you can slow down the decay of cells and reduce the requirements for life processes," says Dr Pegg. "But because the cell consists mainly of water, as the temperature falls, so the system begins to freeze, and then all sorts of complicated things start to happen."

Straightforward freezing of a cell causes irreparable damage. Originally it was thought that this was caused by crystals of ice spiking the delicate structures of the cell. This can certainly happen, but a bigger problem arises from a more subtle phenomenon, Dr Pegg explains.

"As the temperature falls below zero, ice begins to form. This



Sigourney Weaver in 'Alien 3' - cheating death by placing the body in suspended animation has been the source of many a fantasy

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## It takes more than ice to achieve immortality

reduces the volume of liquid water present in the cell. So everything that is dissolved in the water becomes more concentrated. As more ice forms, the concentration of the remaining solution increases. Freezing is essentially a process of dehydration - you are removing water from the system."

As the remaining solution in the cell becomes more concentrated, its freezing point becomes increasingly depressed. "The freezing of a simple biological solution takes place across 21°C, and you get a 32-fold increase in concentration of the dissolved substances in the cell. You end up effectively pickling the inside of the cell." The answer is to use an antifreeze to prevent ice from forming. Such antifreezes, termed cryoprotectants, are introduced into the cell as the temperature is lowered. In this way, many single cells - or, in the case of embryos, small clusters of four or eight cells - can be successfully cryopreserved.

However, even this is not without its complications. If a cell is immersed in a solution of cryoprotectant, before the molecules can diffuse into the cell osmotic forces dictate that water passes out of the cell. This causes the cell to shrink, with potentially disastrous consequences.

By the same token, during re-warming, water tends to enter the cell. If this is not carefully controlled, the cell can swell fatally.

### 'Freezing preserves your corpse. You might as well immerse it in formaldehyde - it's cheaper'

Unfortunately, for organised arrangements of different types of cells - which are essentially what define tissues - things are trickier still. "As well as the same problems you have with single cells, the cells must remain connected to each other and the rest of the tissue in a way that is not affected during cooling or warming," says Dr Monica Wusteman, a senior research scientist at the unit. "While

it may be possible to keep the individual cells alive, if they come unstuck, the tissue then becomes nothing more than useless."

Dr Wusteman is trying to find a way to cryopreserve the cornea - the "window" of the eye. "There is a chronic shortage of corneas for human grafts," she says. "At present, they have to be stored at just below

disintegrates, for reasons which are not yet clear," says Dr Wusteman.

It is possible that as the flat endothelial cells swell up upon re-warming, they become spherical and detach from the basement membrane. Another possibility is that the cellular "glue" that anchors the endothelial cells to the basement membrane is somehow disrupted by the cryoprotectant. Nevertheless, using animal corneas, Dr Wusteman has demonstrated partial recovery of cryopreserved corneal tissue.

"By introducing the cryoprotectant very carefully during freezing, and by removing it in a slow and controlled manner during warming, we managed to prevent the cells from shrinking or swelling by more than 40 per cent, and in this way we did manage to see some signs of recovery," she says.

Meanwhile, the team has demonstrated that it is possible to cryopreserve small arteries for use in bypass surgery, and is about to test a new technique for preserving carilage. It is clear from the work at the York laboratory that many years of

research will be necessary before all human tissues can be routinely cryopreserved for use in surgery. Cryopreserving whole organs is an even more distant goal, despite occasional successes to the contrary.

Around 18 months ago, stories began emerging from South Africa that a team had managed to resuscitate a rat's heart that had been stored in liquid nitrogen using a novel cryoprotectant. Dr Pegg, editor-in-chief of the major research journal in the field of cryobiology, remains deeply sceptical.

"No one was able to substantiate these results," he says. "You can see how difficult it is to preserve simple tissues where the cryoprotectants can diffuse in and out of the cells. When you are dealing with an entire organ, you have a far more complicated system involving blood vessels. What they claimed to have achieved in South Africa seems to be physically impossible."

It seems that the "sleeper" of Woody Allen's film will have to sleep on a little longer before science can match up to fiction's expectation.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT...

#### VIAGRA AND ERECTIONS

IF YOU have not heard yet that Viagra has been a huge hit in the United States, that it is a blue pill which an impotent man takes a few hours before he wants to achieve erection, and that the forecasts are that in Britain it could cost the National Health Service more than £1bn to prescribe - well, what have you been listening to?

Yet despite the intense attention that the drug (formal name sildenafl citrate) has received in the United States, it was in fact developed by a team of English scientists at the research laboratories of the pharmaceuticals company Pfizer, in Sandwich, Kent.

Its original application was for heart complaints; that was the use suggested by the first patent, filed in June 1991. But testers for the drug (which enhances blood flow) noted that their sexual performance also improved. So Pfizer decided to look again at the possible uses.

The result of this was another patent - filed in May 1994 - for the use of sildenafil citrate in treating impotence. Since its approval for use by the United States' Food and Drug Administration on 27 March this year, more than 36,000 Viagra prescriptions have been written each week.

But it has some side-effects - if you can so describe untimely death. More than 30 deaths in America have been reported among users of Viagra since it



If you mix Viagra and heart medication you could suffer an extreme side-effect - death

Kobal

nafl) for heart complaints is principally in treating heart failure - where the heart muscle seems to give up. Cyclic AMP (adenosine monophosphate phosphodiesterase) is a close relative of cyclic GMP, and is key in regulating heart function: it makes the

cardiac wall contract forcefully. Strangely, not many people have written about that part of its ability; you will find many more articles on how it helps men to achieve erection.

CHARLES ARTHUR  
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

### TECHNOQUEST

Questions for this column may be submitted via e-mail to [sci.net@campus.bt.com](mailto:sci.net@campus.bt.com)



itself, as this is where the space exists. Well, we said it was hard to visualise.

Q Why do we get more sunlight in the summer than in the winter?

Because the Earth is tilted, the northern hemisphere points more towards the sun in the summer than in the winter. This means the sun rises higher in the sky in summer, so our days are longer.

Q What makes a sea wave "break"?

In a sense, it trips over its own

feet. Water waves move more slowly in shallow water than in deep water. This makes the bottom of a large wave travel more slowly than the top. Eventually the crest of the wave gets so far ahead of the water that is supporting it below that it falls over - so the wave breaks.

Q What were the first words spoken on a telephone? They were: "Come here Watson, I want you," and they were spoken by Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, on 6 March 1876.

Q What are shooting stars? Shooting stars are meteors - small bits of rock and dust floating round the solar system, that glow brightly as they burn up in the Earth's atmosphere. Sometimes they are mistaken for UFOs.

Q What causes earthquakes? The Earth's crust is made up of 15 pieces or "plates". Currently, we think the plates float on the molten rock underneath and can move around. Earthquakes happen when the plates join - the fault lines - as the plates move and push against each other.

You can also visit the [technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>](http://www.sciencenet.org.uk)

Questions and answers provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0845 600444

### UPDATE

JAPAN HAS recorded its first death caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics. A stomach cancer patient who died of peritonitis was infected with bacteria resistant to vancomycin. The man, in his sixties, was one of eight people in the country confirmed to suffer from antibiotic-resistant infections. Doctors world-wide are increasingly worried about the discovery that strains of one of the world's most common and serious germs - *staphylococcus* - are developing resistance to vancomycin. The Japanese man was infected with *enterococcus*, which is deadly for surgery and cancer patients.

THE CIRCADIAN clocks that keep us ticking over (and lead to jet lag) could be caused by an endless cycle in which two principal proteins - called Tim and Per - are manufactured and destroyed in the cell, say American geneticists. A team at Rockefeller University in New York report in *Cell* that they have discovered that, in the fruit fly, the genes which code for those proteins are caught in an endless dance with another protein known as Dbt, for "double time". Both Per and Tim are generated from the start of the day, but Dbt breaks down Per. Meanwhile Tim levels build up; on reaching a critical level (at about midnight, 18 hours after the cycle starts), the Tim prevents Dbt breaking down Per, and so the Tim and Per proteins head into the nucleus, where they turn off their genes. The cycle can then start again. Mutations in the Dbt gene can alter the length of the cycle. So maybe that - or a corollary - is how some people survive on a couple of hours' sleep a night.

BOTTLED MINERAL water could one day be tasted by electronic "tongues", following a development by a team at the University of Texas in Austin. *New Scientist* reports that researchers have developed a system that works along the lines of the human tongue, which can taste just four elements - sour, salt, sweet and bitter. The electronic version uses chemical sensors attached to plastic beads on a silicon wafer; they change colour depending on what intensity of their particular "taste" they detect. The combination of colours that results on the wafer is interpreted by an image sensor. Mineral water should have little or no taste, which ought to be easy to measure.

WITH SCIENCE spending suddenly seeing a boom after 18 (or 19) years of gloom, the Department of Trade and Industry is to spend £103.86m over eight years on UK participation in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) project at Cern in Switzerland. The LHC will produce proton collisions at energies about 10 times greater than those previously achieved by any other accelerator, with the rates of collisions about a thousand times greater. "The LHC may uncover a possible first step towards the long-sought link between gravity and the remaining forces - the as-yet undiscovered symmetry of physical phenomena known as 'supersymmetry,'" commented Brian Foster, professor of particle physics at Bristol University.

UPDATE  
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# Hats off to the hoedown

Trevor Nunn's *Oklahoma!* won't cause the sensation that greeted the original 1943 production. But it's a cracking good show (even if it is just a tale of boy meets girl.) By David Benedict

**T**he corn is as high as an elephant's eye." Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* boasts the most famous introductory rhyming couplet in the whole of musical theatre but you want to know what's corny about the new National Theatre production? Absolutely nothing.

This is not so much a re-creation as a full-blown rediscovery. Seeing this 55-year-old show so pristine and proud is like gazing at a newly-restored old master, with the encrustations of the years stripped away to reveal its proper colours.

From the scurrying strings and the blaring brass section of the 24-piece orchestra hurtling hell-for-leather into "The Farmer and The Cowman" at the top of the exhilarating overture, you realise that while this is a British take on the quintessential American show, the tone is right in every sense.

It may not be *The Grapes of Wrath*, but this too is about territory and Anthony Ward's atmospheric, sun-drenched design never lets go of the idea. Capitalising on the vast, open space of the Olivier stage, his witty use of perspective, from tiny model trains in the distance to towering cornfields beneath the huge bowl of the horizon, emphasises the breadth and immensity of the parched land.

In 1943 it caused a sensation but these days it is sometimes difficult to see why. Heck, it's just your average boy-meets-girl show, aint it? Well, yes, in terms of the basic story-line, it is, but in all other respects it is nothing short of a revolution. And the point about *Oklahoma!* is that it so completely broke the mould that everything was re-made in its image for decades afterwards.

For starters, there is the setting. It is like that old saw about buying property: the three most important things? Location, location, location.

True, Broadway musicals had ventured beyond Manhattan before. In 1930, Gershwin's *Girl Crazy* spent most of its time 3,000 miles out of New York in no-hope, dead-end Custerville, but it followed the strict rule of letting the audience sympathise with the sophisticated showfolk who were there checking out the colourful hicks in the sticks.

*Oklahoma!*, on the other hand, banished the smart wisecracks, the leggy showgirls and star turns and set up in Indian territory at the turn of the century. Hell, even the climactic title number is about their homeland. A musical set in the past about farmers and cowboys fighting and figuring out their future together? Please.

Checking out the New Haven tryout, Broadway bigshot Mike Todd famously quipped: "No gags, no gals, no chance." This guy knew a thing or three, being not only a heavyweight producer but an erstwhile boyfriend of Gypsy Rose Lee and a future Mr Elizabeth Taylor. Boy, was he wrong. Its 2,248 performance run broke every Broadway record, only finally overtaken by *My Fair Lady* almost 20 years later.

There would be questions raised about public subsidy if Trevor Nunn's revival played that long at the National, but the gut-busting energy, confidence and sheer full-blooded entertainment value of his production should silence opposition to the



Helen Missing as Emily. There is scale and dramatic depth to this revival

mounting of such a popular classic. Not only will this bring new audiences into the building (and much needed money), there is a scale and dramatic depth to this revival undreamt of in the harsh world of the profit-led West End.

When director Nicholas Hytner picked up the Olivier award for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* at the same address, he remarked that all he had done was direct the subtext and Nunn does the same. He elicits strikingly truthful tenderness from his leads. You know they will end up together, but their distinctly touchy emotional relationship is extremely touching. Instead of the usual knowing musical comedy heroine, barefoot Josephine Gabrielle is genuinely young and uncertain, filled with conflicting emotions she can neither quite recognise nor handle. In the opening scene of the remarkably faithful film, chipper Gordon MacRae as the hero Curly tries to persuade Laurey to go with him to the box-social dance. But as soon as he opens his mouth to sing "The Surrey With The Fringe On Top" it is as if he has suddenly gone to the opera. By contrast, Hugh Jackman's effortless shift between acting and singing is seamless. It sounds and looks like the most natural thing in the world. Hammerstein's tightly constructed book knows exactly when to use which form but Nunn's direction is so detailed and secure that both become fused in the hands of his almost ridiculously strong cast.

It is the same with Susan Stroman's thrilling choreography which replaces

Agnes de Mille's blueprint. Dance is this show's most radical and expressive element but Stroman never stops the dramatic flow to show off fancy footwork. When Will Parker displays the fancy notions he has picked up in "Kansas City", Jimmy Johnston's bravura display of everything from buoyant ragtime hoofing to hilarious rope-twirling is rooted in his buoyant characterisation. It also brings the house down. Stroman is great on disguise. The exuberant company numbers are full of line-ups and shapes which make you gasp in surprise because they seem to arrive out of thin air while telling you everything about these people.

The most famous part of the show is Laurey's 15-minute dream ballet which closes the first act. Previously, dancers have taken over from the actors in the lead roles to perform the central love triangle. Here, there is no such disruption because the actors dance their roles themselves, which pays enormous dramatic dividends. Chief among them is the fleshing out of the farm-hand, Jud. Normally he is portrayed as such a psychopath, it is as if Norman Bates were suing for her affections. The massive Shuler Hensley not only sings up a storm and dances the role with finesse, he finds acres of sadness beneath his disfiguring anger and stupidity.

"What's doin' out there making all that racket, ya bunch of pig stealers?" yells a slightly stretched Maureen Lipman as Aunt Eller. They are supposedly giving the newly-weds a comic send-off but are interrupted by the superbly staged fight scene.

Actually, what this crackerjack company is doing is having one helluva good time. As is the audience.

The rest of the performance was given over to Donna McKeown's *Transluence*, settings of poems by Derek Jarman to something of a requiem. Chance was joined by viola (Catherine Mansfield), cellist (Caroline Dale), and three female singers. McKeown herself, Melanie Pappenheim and Kelly McCusker. Chance sang with heightened feeling, but so unvarnished was the musical language that mournfulness soon became religiosity and even "I am a Manly Muff Diving Queen" seemed antiseptic rather than raucously randy.

The female voices were mostly used in *a cappella* close harmony, but McCusker's solos had a folkish intensity that McKeown might have made more of. Yet she writes idiomatically for voices and instruments: a suite of songs for counter-tenor instead of a 45-minute "concept album", would have shown her talent in better light, but there's no doubt the authenticity of the emotions that generated *Transluence*.

NICK KIMBERLEY

A CD of Donna McKeown's "Transluence" will be released in September

Laurie Lewis RNT, SBC. Box office: 0171-452 3000

## What you thought of 'Oklahoma!'

"It's one of the best musicals I have seen in ages. It's beautifully choreographed, the lighting and singing are unbelievable. It really is one of the greatest shows in a long time."

Sally Shuter, 65, theatrical agent, Hampshire

"I think that they tinkered with it too much, with extra dance routines and tunes. And the songs had this false sound, as if they were singing to a backing tape. It was well acted, but perhaps too slick and lacking in authenticity. Because it has been around so long, it should be treated as seriously as opera."

John Heyward, 25, musician, London

"Pretty slow and dull. The second half picked up. The dancing was better than the singing, all the characters are real drags."

Philip Norman, age withheld, journalist, west London

"Dancing was really good, and the singing. It was just really lively and fun to watch."

Margaux Kelly, 15, student, Belgium

"It's a good musical and I will probably watch it again in a few years' time. My parents told me all about it and said give it a go. All in all, a great performance."

Ben Ed, 22, student, London

"Very much in the line of the National Theatre musicals. Beautifully designed, fabulous acting. The singing and dancing are outstanding. So, a thoroughly wonderful evening."

Gerald Dowler, 32, teacher, London

"It's amazing that the London stage, and especially the National Theatre, can bring to us choreography, singing, all rounders. All those actors are so brilliant. And I think there are a few stars born here tonight. It was a sensation."

Priscilla John, age withheld, casting director, London

"Very entertaining. I especially liked the little touches, with the train and the carriage at the end. It was just very lively and energetic."

Linda Brusasco, 27, journalist, London

## Dizzy rapture as Chance hits the high notes

DESPITE THE nomenclature, the falsetto voice in Western popular music generally indicates emotional authenticity, *passion in extremis*. In classical music, on the other hand, the shadow of the castrato hangs over the counter-tenor, bringing connotations of passion-free purity, or of some alien state of otherworldiness, as in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or Arribert Reimann's *Lear*.

Few counter-tenors have done as much to dispel that chilly aura as Michael Chance. The voice is unusually rich for

a falselist, and allied to a refined sense of dramatic possibility, it becomes a powerful vehicle for emotional expression. In addition, Chance has been more willing than most counter-tenors to embrace music in a variety of forms: not only Tan Dun, but Elvis Costello. Last Wednesday, his City of London Festival recital encapsulated his range, from the baroque to the post-modern.

He began in what, for English counter-tenors, is more or less home territory, lute songs by John Dowland (Jacob Heringham the accompanist).

CLASSICAL  
MICHAEL CHANCE,  
VINTNER'S HALL  
LONDON

Dowland's way with words has a conversational flexibility that still sounds remarkably modern, and Chance, whose own response to the text is acute, caught the emotional inflexions well, despite brief moments when the colour drained from the voice. He is not afraid to bring a whiff of the theatre to the recital platform, and the dizzy rapture of his "Say Love if

ever Thou didst find" raised wry smiles.

He moved on to 20th century lute songs by Geoffrey Burgoon (who used the counter-tenor voice in his theme for *TV's Silent Witness*). Burgoon's *Lunar Beauty* sets five poems by Auden, one by MacNeice, using the lute at times like a piano, at others like a guitar: the clarity of Chance's diction is a bonus for contemporary composers, and he brought real intensity to Burgoon's lines.

The rest of the performance

was given over to Donna McKeown's *Transluence*, settings of poems by Derek Jarman to something of a requiem. Chance was joined by viola (Catherine Mansfield), cellist (Caroline Dale), and three female singers. McKeown herself, Melanie Pappenheim and Kelly McCusker. Chance sang with heightened feeling, but so unvarnished was the musical language that mournfulness soon became religiosity and even "I am a Manly Muff Diving Queen" seemed antiseptic rather than raucously randy.

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

## 'My editor thinks I'm writing a book'

THE ACTRESS and comedienne Arabella Weir is author of the best-selling *'Does My Bum Look Big In This?'*

What are you doing in Scotland?

As far as my editor's concerned I'm up here in isolation to write my book. But I'm doing a sitcom called *The Creatives* with Jack Doherty, and supposedly my book at the same time.

It's about a cheesy ad agency in Edinburgh (the sitcom) that doesn't do very well. It'll be very funny. It's written by Jack and his partner Murray Hunter, who he used to be in a sketch show called *Ab-*

olutely with. I work in the agency too, but I'm also Jack's extremely jealous Italian wife.

Is she anything like the characters you play in *The Fast Show*? The *Fast Show* is where I play the "extreme" types, but I haven't played any Italians on it. I used to live in Italy, though, and I know a lot of Italians. But never mind about that; she's still based on me all the same.

Anything else on the screen? I've presented a half-hour of religious clips on BBC2, writing gags about having a *futuah* put on me. I don't know when it comes out, so I'll be waiting to my book until it's finished.



Arabella Weir

Will it be a sequel? It's not even remotely similar to my last book. The first one was relentless paranoia at the highest possible volume; whereas this one isn't even in the first person and there will be a lot of fiction. Hopefully, it will be funny. It's supposed to be funny, but if we're going to flatter myself greatly, the template would be Roddy Doyle.

So there'll be a serious note? It's serious first and foremost. It's about friendships, about three women who have been best friends since they were 11. And peripherally, it's about Camden Town, which is where they met, though their school

won't be called Camden because I don't want people picking me up on the geography. It's about how kids from dysfunctional families can find friends to take the place of their families. The family is supposed to be a shelter from the rough and tumble of the world, but it isn't there for a lot of people. It wasn't there for me and my contemporaries, and that's where these friendships come out. I was very lucky to make lifelong friends at school.

*Onwards and Upward* will be published by Hamish Hamilton next spring.

INTERVIEW BY NICK FEARN

## Good looking



Gallery Week starts on 18 July - This is the UK's biggest national arts festival, special events, activities and tours at a gallery near you. A great idea - art for all! (David Hockney). For a leaflet call:

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# A great museum with a city attached

Head for the Latvian capital.

Why? Because you'll find one of the world's most extraordinary al fresco displays of art nouveau. By Charles Hind

The exhibition of the Art Nouveau architecture of Riga currently at the RIBA Heinz Gallery in London is a useful reminder of how many architectural treasures, until recently hidden behind the Iron Curtain, remain to be discovered by tourist and architectural historian alike. The architecture of the Baltic States, countries that now firmly turn to the West rather than Russia, is particularly unrecognised, and it may come as a surprise to find that Riga is the most complete Art Nouveau city in the world.

The Baltic states enjoyed a precarious independence between 1919 and 1940. In the closing years of the 19th century, Latvia and Estonia enjoyed an economic and cultural boom. Even though they were at that time provinces of the Russian Empire, that boom has left behind considerable architectural remains.

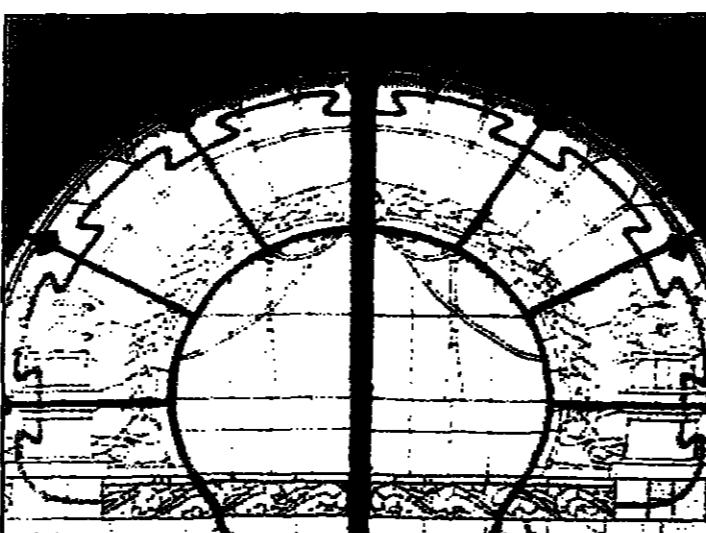
Culturally, the Baltic States had looked to Germany, and the middle and upper classes of the eastern Baltic were usually German in origin, even if they had been resident there for centuries. From the 1890s nationalisation emerged, as Latvian speakers entered the ranks of the middle classes. In Latvia's capital, Riga, this was expressed in architecture and design by a peculiarly local version of the international style known as Art Nouveau. At the same time there was a literary revival and a huge increase in the numbers of books and newspapers published in the Latvian language, which in turn assisted the development of a Latvian national consciousness.

Riga is a unique example of an Art Nouveau city, with more than a third of its buildings constructed in this style. The historic core of Riga, which celebrates its 800th anniversary this year, consists of medieval and later buildings once surrounded by walls and fortifications that were demolished in the mid-19th century and replaced by gardens and boulevards. The suburbs were laid out on a grid pattern, but for many years remained the wooden houses and gardens built after the end of the Napoleonic wars.

By 1900, Riga was developing rapidly and its population doubled over the next 15 years. Building activity was hectic, with 300 to 500 apartment blocks going up annually between 1910 and 1913. They were built rapidly and it often took little more than a year from the acceptance of the design by the civic authorities to completion. The styles evolved just as quickly, so it is possible to date a building to within a couple of years simply by looking at its decorative features.

The Riga Art Nouveau style was influenced mainly by German, Austrian and Finnish architecture, but the approach was rooted in the traditions of Latvian culture and construction techniques. The architects were mainly local, trained at the Riga Polytechnical Institute, but although nearly 90 per cent were Baltic Germans, rather than native Latvians, the latter were responsible for nearly 40 per cent of the new buildings. Some 61 per cent of the buildings were owned by native Latvians, and these two statistics explain why the new structures had a distinctive Latvian quality, despite the foreign origins of the style.

The street that visitors are most likely to visit first is Alberta iela, lined with the most extraordinary series of apartment blocks. Five of them are by Mikhail Eisenstein, father of the early Soviet film-maker. A walk down the street shows the variety of influences at work: national rom-



Top: Eisenstein's facade built in 1903; above left to right: stained glass window, Medusa-like carving on a Riga shop front, art nouveau interior in Alberta iela



Top: Eisenstein's facade built in 1903; above left to right: stained glass window, Medusa-like carving on a Riga shop front, art nouveau interior in Alberta iela

anticism and neoclassicism, historicism and rationalism. Round the corner is the studio apartment/museum of the leading Latvian painter Janis Rozentals, in a Gothic Art Nouveau building of 1904 by Konstantins Peksens. The sweeping circular staircase is lined with brightly coloured murals. Other buildings contain elaborate plasterwork

in their lobbies and stairwells. Continuing along the surrounding streets, every block contains buildings with a fascinating variety of details and finishes.

The exhibition contains original architectural designs, period and modern photographs and a number of three-dimensional objects, including furniture, clocks, ceramics

and book bindings. All the objects have been loaned from Latvian collections; none has been seen outside Latvia before.

The exhibition's curator, Professor Janis Krastins, is an expert in the field. In 1996, he published *Riga Art Nouveau Metropolis*, the first full-length account available in English. The lavishly illustrated book reflects

the rich diversity of the architectural heritage that Latvians have until recently taken for granted and are now being exhorted to maintain and restore. The city authorities of Riga, who sponsored the exhibition, are keen to ensure that 50 years of benign neglect under Soviet control are not succeeded by an era of plastic windows and tropical hardwood

doors of the type that blight so many British towns today. It can only be hoped that they are successful.

*The Art Nouveau Architecture of Riga* is at the RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1H 9HF (0171-307 3628) until 25 July. *Riga: Art Nouveau Metropolis*, price £60, is on sale at the gallery

## THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 5: COWSLIPS



And you should see how relaxed she is after she's put her slippers on

So far, more than 200 Millennium Products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them...

DAIRY CATTLE are famously laid back. The calm attitude of Guernseys, Jerseys, Gloucesters, and their milk-bearing cousins, transmits itself to those around them.

This was acknowledged by Victorian doctors. In the 19th century, a sojourn on a dairy farm was often prescribed as a cure for those suffering from nervous disorders. To this day, an older generation of farmers still holds fast to the view that the best way to unwind after a hard day in the fields is to stand by the byre for 30 minutes, breathing in the sweet perfumes of hay and cow.

Given the relaxed behaviour of dairy cattle, it is perhaps not surprising that someone has decided to fit them with slippers. The Cowslip, from Giltspur Scientific, is more than a

piece of anthropomorphic whimsy, however. Cattle are martyrs to their feet. If you or I tramped around barefoot (and frequently pregnant) all day, so would we be. As many as 25 per cent of all British dairy cows

suffer from lameness or infected hooves. This causes pain and discomfort and dramatically reduces milk yield.

The Cowslip, a PVC orthopaedic clog with a tapering sole, was introduced in 1992 to

tackle the problem. But the use of protective footwear on cattle is by no means new.

The Scottish drovers of the 1700s fitted their herds with wooden shoes for the long march from the Highlands to

Smithfield market. The use of wooden blocks as a means of treating ulcerated or infected hooves continues to this day, but is often far from satisfactory. No matter what strength of adhesive is used, it does not take a cow long to kick off a cumbersome wooden block.

By contrast, the Cowslip, which slots on to the claw of the hoof, is far more difficult to dislodge and stays in position for weeks. This allows time for the cow's foot to heal, and also improves general posture.

The Cowslip has won many prizes (including the Prince Philip Award for research and development in dairy farming), and testimonials from far afield as Quebec and the United Arab Emirates.

Despite the success of the Cowslip, it is probable that Giltspur Scientific has no plans for related items, such as a pipe or a velvet smoking-jacket.

HARRY PEARSON

## LINES ON DESIGNS



WHEN THE appraisers of the Andy Warhol estate first entered Warhol's town house at 37 East 68th Street in New York one February in 1987, they were astonished by what they found. Victor Bockris describes the scene in 'The Life and Death of Andy Warhol' (Fourth Estate)

room - unopened shopping bags and boxes, crates and packages, stuff and more stuff.

"Two months later, when the appraisers had finished their inventory of this Xanadu, they had catalogued on computer more than

10,000 items to be put on the auction block, ranging from Picassos to Bakelite bracelets; from rare silver tea services to siestaware; from museum-quality American Indian art to cigar-store Indians; from Austrian Succession furniture to vending machines; from rare books to cookie jars - 47 lots of them.

Conspicuously absent, apart from one small painting of Chairman Mao in a guest bedroom, was anything by the owner himself, a man who may have been the most prolific American artist of the 20th century."

"UPSTAIRS IN the elegant sleeping quarters, the appraisers found objects that revealed something more personal about the man who had lived there: the green boxes of wings stacked next to the television set; an antique crucifix on a side table next to the Federal four-poster bed; an American primitive painting of two little girls in red dresses and white pantaloons that clearly occupied pride of place over a mantelpiece, directly facing the bed; and in the sparkling white bathroom, a cabinet overflowing with skin creams, make-up tubes and jars, and bottles of perfume.

"In the folds of the four-poster's canopy they found women's jewels squirrelled away. In every closet and cupboard, in guest bedrooms on the third and fourth floors, in the basement kitchen, they found more of what they had seen in the dining-

## Designers at your fingertips

It's good to talk to craftsmen. And a new directory means that you can. By John Windsor



The reflection of Pascal Anson's mirror

WHICH DESIGNER? Instead of traipsing round shops, exhibitions and studios you can now sit in an armchair, browse through Peta Levi's new annual design directory and telephone any of 300 young designers whose illustrated work takes your fancy.

Her 272-page *New British Design 1998* (Mitchell Beazley, £50) looks like a telephone directory - apart from Vicky Ghouse's shimmering plastic jacket design, which beat 150 competitors - and it works like one.

I telephoned Pascal Anson, a 25-year-old Kingston University graduate, intrigued by his quote in the directory that he had to drag people over to his plastic star-shaped mirror-lamp, "Stars in Your Eyes", to "show them the magic".

What magic? He explained that the mirror reflects the star shape in the pupils of people's eyes. But since he had been unable to find a photographer capable of recording it, he had to drag people over to his plastic star-shaped mirror-lamp, "Stars in Your Eyes", to "show them the magic".

The most arresting designs in the new directory are lighting and wall hangings.

in the lighting section, ceramics,

glass, plastic and metal combine to create *jeux d'esprit* that is a liberation from traditional uses of those materials.

Most designs in the book

would put foyeish interiors to shame.

But Sharon Marston's

sculptural woven nylon floor lamp, an artwork in its own right, would attract attraction as a showpiece.

As for wall hangings,

we have come a long way from

adult-class macrame.

The latest thing is to stuff fabric with

curious things, such as irides-

cent preserved fish (Zoe Hope) or feathers (Kumi Middleton). Ptolemy Mann's hand-dyed and woven fabric is stretched, wall-like, on an upright dobby-horse - to act as both a room-divider and an artwork.

Accessories are getting quirky: Alan Pickersgill's silver letter knife/paperweight is fashioned into a comma shape, and you might be well into the brandy and cigars before discovering that Simon Burns' surreal silver and blown glass object is in fact the pepper and salt set. The biggest disappointment is furniture: derivative, dull or plain awful, though Precious McNamee's "Little Tail" stacking stools are jolly - and even jollier if you sit with the stubby leather tail in front.

The book's publication coincides with the launch at the annual New Designers exhibition (Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, until Sunday), of a design graduate database by New Designers in Business (0171-435 4348, or 0171-431 6329); exhibition (0171-355 3555).

You can see 50 of the designs in the book at Haus, 23-25 Mortimer Street, London W1, until tomorrow (0171-255 2557).

Also out this week is *The International Design Yearbook 1998*, edited by Richard Sapper (Laurence King Publishing, £22).

A place to sleep, perchance to dream? Not so, says AN Wilson, who wrote his first six novels in bed

# That's not a bed. It's my office

IN THE days when *Desert Island Discs* really was *Desert Island Discs* (during the lifetime of Roy Plomley, that is), I was asked to appear on the show. I did not flatter myself, at the age of 30 or thereabouts, that I was even half-way distinguished enough to be cast away upon that venerable shore. It happened, like most things, by accident.

Some marketing wizard in the book trade had dreamed up the idea that 20 authors under 40 should be named as "The Best of Young British Novelists". They secured an agreement with Radio 4, or the Home Service as it was in those days, that one of them should appear on Plomley's programme.

Plomley had the kindly habit of giving luncheon to his castaway at his club, and he developed a morbid fear that, if the Best of Young British idea went ahead, he would be required to sit across a table from Martin Amis. He happened to meet me on a train one day and confid-

*A few months after meeting the love of my life, she told me she'd bought a Paddington tart's bed*

ed his horror at the prospect. A few weeks later, I found myself cross-legged under the palm trees in the statutory Florida shirt and Bermuda shorts, the pile of eight discs at my side (78s in those days, of course), a splendidly bound copy of the Bible and Shakespeare and my "luxury item".

It was not difficult to decide what this item should be. Life would be endurable if one were marooned under the stars with only cockatoos and orang-utans for company. I'd miss very few items of household furniture. I could do without a loo: digging the lats would revive fond memories of days in the Boy Scouts. As for all the clobber which had, at the time of sales, seemed so tempting in auction houses - the refectory tables, the long-case clocks, the lumpy mahogany desks, the talboys and the what-nots - it would be bliss to be without them. Beneath every clutter queen there is a minimalist signalling desperately to be let out.

But, as I tried to make myself comfortable on the warm, silver sand, or wriggled miserably in my home-made hammock, oh how I'd yearn for a bed. So I chose my bed as the luxury item with which I should be marooned.

"My" bed, however, is a misnomer. Shakespeare generously left his second-best bed to his wife in his will - a stupendously valuable item in those days. But no such clause



AN Wilson and his bed: "Weird to think that I've been sleeping in it for 10 years now."

will appear in my will. There's never been a bed which could be designed "mine".

In the *Desert Island Days*, I was, as it happens, more or less bed-ridden. I learnt from my old tutor and friend John Bayley that the secret of writing books is not to put on your day-clothes until you have completed your daily 1,000 words. As long as you are still in your pyjamas, you can't be tempted to break the morning routine by going to the shops, or arranging to have lunch with a friend.

With the concentration of the invalid and the portable typewriter balanced on my knees, I wrote the first six or seven of my novels and a quantity of non-fiction in bed. It was the natural place to do it, since I was sharing a very small house with three, sometimes four people, and there was no room for a study. After a few years of it, I had

developed such acute verbal diarrhoea that it had become necessary to take a job. By staying in bed until tea-time, I'd allowed my 1,000-words-a-day habit to escalate to 2,000 words, and the crisis in the world's rainforests began to prick my conscience. Time to buy myself some day-clothes and secure an office routine.

The bed in which I spent most of my time when Roy Plomley sent me off to the desert island was a brass affair, destined to fall to bits. A certain type of poet would have made something of this, imagining it as the symbol of a long-dead relationship. It did not strike me like this at the time. I had thought it was only ears that could have a broken chassis, but this bed had become a heap of disconnected slats and broken frames by the time it was chucked on to a builder's skip.

By then, acute back trouble had

developed. The idea of spending all day in bed on an unsupportive mattress and rusty Victorian springs would have been forbidden by the osteopath. Once, when the vertebrae were providing hideous torment, I bought the sort of stand-up clerk's desk at which Cardinal Newman or Virginia Woolf had chosen to write. Somehow, I never took to it, and those proved to be unproductive years.

It is more than 15 years since the *Desert Island Discs* programme and more than 10 years since the old brass bed fell to bits.

When I first met the love of my life, on the Isle of Wight, she had no bed of her own. When we had known one another a few months, she told me that she had bought a "Paddington tart's bed", but we were still so shy of one another that I had no idea whether to hope, one day, to sleep in it myself.

I was a Paddington resident at the time, living in a rather nasty flat not far from the station and surrounded, as it happened, by just such women as supposedly might have used, in their working hours, the recently purchased Isle of Wight bed. The lumped double divan which came with the flat in which I was living only ever contained myself. It was a bed in which I spent little time, often rising at three or four to think of the "tart's" bed and its mysteriously beautiful purchases. Would it be Louis Something with flounces? Modern brutalist with chains and handcuffs on the bed-posts? A four-poster?

It was a surprise to be asked around to Georgian Street (her London address) and to be shown the bed when it had been delivered from the island. I once saw a photograph of the austere iron bedstead in which Mr Gladstone died at Hawarden Castle; the Paddington tart's bed looked like a replica. Given the great statesman's philanthropic obsessions, perhaps it was appropriate that he died in such an object. It's weird to think that I've been sleeping in it for 10 years now.

When I chose to be marooned in a bed, it was not because I'm sentimental about beds. I merely like to be comfortable and (like the late Archbishop Ramsey) I should say that many of my happiest hours the said all are when I'm asleep.

Of course, it is amusing if you are lucky enough to stay in some grand house, to sleep in a state bed. The most fantastical one in which we ever found ourselves was in the Sabine Room at Chatsworth: you wake up and wonder whether you are riding in the Lord Mayor's coach or whether you have

momentarily appeared for the veneration of the faithful on the high altar at St Peter's.

But it is always slightly embarrassing, isn't it, when middle-class folks like us try to recreate those "stately home" effects in the poly rooms to which our income inevitably condemns us? Nor do I think that beds are improved by a lot of poufy festoons or drapes. Our spare bed is a simple *bateau lit* - French country-town furniture such as Eugenie Grandet might have slept in. Many a *World of Interiors* addict would have tried to dress it up with drapes, or a corona, as if it were a *Malmaison* cast-off.

In small bedrooms, small beds are best. Freddie Ayer, the unimaginative philosopher, slept (with wife) in a single divan for something like 15 years of marriage. I wouldn't take things this far, but if you like one another, surely snuggling close is rather nice? If not, why not go for twin beds such as people had in the Thirties? Or - as my happily-mar-

ried parents did for 40 and more years - separate rooms?

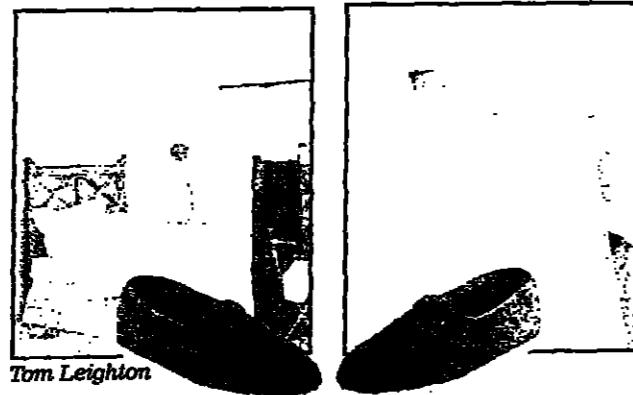
Those huge, bigger-than-king-size beds depress me. You get them in American hotels. No wonder American men need to take Viagra: it must be years since they and their wives touched one another by so much as the accidental brushing of big toes together beneath the duvet.

Four people would fit with ease in the beds I am describing, but I in fact associate them with solitude. The last time I cried myself to sleep was in one of them. I was on one of those ghastly author tours in the US. You look at your schedule and, if it's Tuesday, you must be in Seattle, though the Holiday Inn rooms all look identical.

So, one night (in Chicago it was) I lay there, not weeping as someone does in a Martin Amis novel, because of some metaphysical angst, but because I was homesick. Homesick for a bed. Who would have dreamed, 10 years ago, of the way things would turn out when this object of furniture was driven to London by a kind friend in the Osborne "works" department? It is too private to write about.

Here we are as I write, sometimes all four of us - the dog at our feet like a lion on a Crusader tomb, the gurgling daughter between her fuddy-duddy parents with their mugs of tea and their biscuits.

## DESIGN DETAILS BEDS AND ACCESSORIES



There are two rules when buying a bed: test it out thoroughly before you buy, and spend as much on it as you possibly can. That need not mean breaking the bank. There are plenty of excellent, inexpensive beds around. For Baroque wrought iron, Victorian and Edwardian style or post-modern chic try the Iron Bed Company (01243 778999). The Futon Company (0171-727 9252 for stockists) will supply double beds from £159. A hefty outlay will secure you a designer bed from the SCP Gallery (0171-739 1869) - £1,692 for the cool sophistication of the Byron Bed in maple. For true originality, it is hard to beat the bed made out of old gateposts (top left) featured in *Junk Style* by Melanie Molesworth (Ryland Peters & Small, £18.99).

A new bed means new bedlinen, naturally. Since the advent of the duvet (remember eiderdowns?) it is almost impossible to find proper sheets and blankets, but designers have finally cottoned on to the opportunities afforded by bedlinen. This

autumn there are new ranges by Jasper Conran, Cath Kidston and Kelly Hoppen for Debenhams (0171-408 4444), and the Japanese minimalist company Muji (0171-376 2484), has indicated that it may be bringing out a bedding range later this year. Toast (01553 668 800), the mail order company, supplies a complete Irish linen set (off-white only) of double sheet, duvet cover and four pillowcases with single-corded border, for £185.

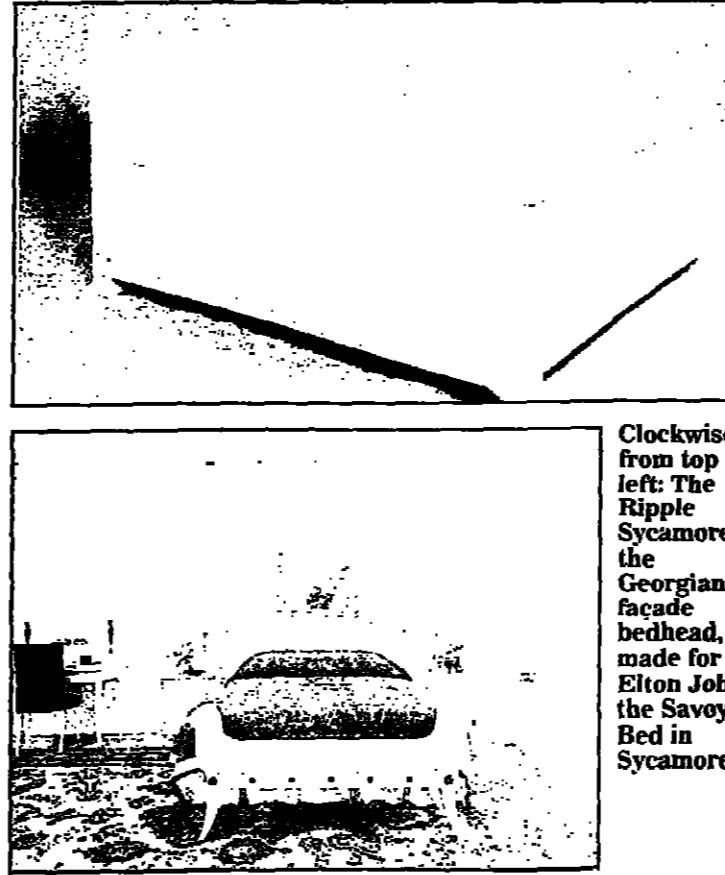
Extend the pleasures of bedtime with Sainsbury's Sleep Well lavender bubble bath (£1.99 for 400ml) while listening to Zarvis/London's Music for Bathing CD (£11.50, enquiries and mail order, 0181-563 5435); post-bath, indulge yourself with pure cotton pyjamas (top right) (£45, Toast, as before), a pair of cashmere espadrilles (above) (£79, Toast as before, available in black and natural from September) and a copy of *And So To Bed*, the National Trust's excellent social history of sleeping arrangements (£4.99).

FIONA MCCARTHY

## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS

DAVID LINLEY

# From salvage yard to bedroom



Clockwise from top left: The Ripple Sycamore; the Georgian facade bedhead, made for Elton John; the Savy Bed in Sycamore

"I TRY to use inspiration from the past in a fresh, positive way. I'll take the strong lines of a four-poster bed or the fancy print of an old linen and remove some of its fussiness. "The function of a piece is as important as its beauty; one piece of furniture is often used in many different ways, like tables being turned into PC desks at home, so we design to suit

our customers' daily lives. I always ask my clients to come into the workshop and talk to them about how they will use the piece.

"I rummage in antique shops, visit National Trust houses or the V&A, scour salvage yards, such as Lassco, for inspiration. I love the delicious, grainy feel of old wood.

"We started designing beds on a

commission basis: Elton John commissioned a four-poster, but it wouldn't have suited his bedroom which had odd proportions. Instead, we enlarged the room by taking the facade of an old Georgian building as the backdrop to the bed.

"Since then, we've been experimenting with different styles. We recently made a four-poster bed from old posts found in an antiques shop along the Pimlico Road.

"I would love to sleep in the state bed at Houghton Hall, in Norfolk. It's 25ft tall, swathed in green velvet and has been described as 'one of the most sumptuous pieces of furniture ever designed by William Kent'. The idea of designing a 'sumptuous' bed really appeals: I'd pay close attention

to the turning of the wood in the corner posts, use plain fabrics, jazzed up with patterned pillowcases and bolsters, but try to deliver a sense of history, making it more accessible for 20th-century living."

David Linley and Co, 60 Pimlico Road, London SW1 W8LP (0171-730 7300)

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Green, clean and community-led – is this a vision of the future for our cities? As problems of congestion, pollution and poor infrastructure pile up, many people are looking at radically different ways to tackle urban planning. By Nonie Niesewand

# New drives for a car-free future

**S**ummer is a good time for people who live in London to think about its future. It is the season when people make the most of the city: walking to work through leafy parks, strolling through street markets and eating out on the broadwalks. Yet the capital already spreads over 610 square miles with seven million inhabitants. When you can already walk to your destination faster than your cab travelling at less than seven miles an hour, what will the situation be in 2017?

Posters this week on over 1000 sites on the Underground for "A Car-Free London" announce a competition open to everyone, even kids, to find new ways to move people and goods around London 20 years from now. That question mark asks you to think about the possibility of a car-free capital. It is not a campaign to pedestrianise London. Clean, swift transport and a capital free from car-related crime are the goals.

Everyone has an opinion about pollution and urban traffic congestion. Now is our chance to express our views to the people in a position to translate them into action – the Architecture Foundation. They have town planners, transport designers and architects on their judging panel to present the finals to the Government. Stage One asks for ideas in just 300 words with an A3 board of images and captions before 25 September. Stage Two puts together five teams of the best who will be given £5,000 to draw up proposals at the announcement of the shortlist on 18 November. The Architecture Foundation will act as design consultants to pull those ideas into what is called an infrastructure.

Computer game players of *Sim City 2000*, published by Maxis, know the score. You take a pre-built city, such as London, and you have a problem to solve or disaster to face. Transportation is the city's circulation system. It not only costs money to build your transportation system, but there is also a yearly maintenance fee with funding levels for roads, rails, subways, bridges and tunnels. Then you have to link the residential, commercial and industrial zones of a city with the seaports, the airports and roads, rail stations and depots. People have to move. So do products, delivery trucks, construction materials and all kinds of things. Two good bits of advice for planning mass transit systems: put bus or rail depots or subways near busy intersections and make sure



With no cars to cater for, streets could become grass-covered playgrounds for all to enjoy

that mass transit lines travel through different types of zones. A bus line that stays in a residential zone won't have much business.

The Architecture Foundation know that the reliance on the motor car in cities is dwindling even if Ford's billboards read "London's Alternative Transport: Get Into The Noddy", which show the snub-nosed little Noddy car boldly outlined against a London Underground map. Chairman of the Architecture Foundation, Richard Rogers, the architect of the

Millennium Dome, does not agree. He takes a global overview. At the lecture he gave at the London School of Economics, which he delivered with bicycle clips clamping his Issey Miyake collarless shirt, he observed: "There are an estimated 500 million cars in the world today. They have eroded the quality of public space and have encouraged urban sprawl." He believes that, "The wider cities spread, the more uneconomic it becomes to expand public transport systems and the

more car-dependent citizens become. Cities around the world are being transformed to facilitate the car even though it is cars rather than industry that now generate the largest amount of air pollution." Statistics are frightening – two thousand billion cubic metres of exhaust fumes are created each year.

Like *Bladerunner* director Ridley Scott, you have to fast-forward 20 years to envisage the changes in land use, transport and communications needed to reduce,

or even remove, motorised traffic. And then imagine the amazing things that can be done with the space. Birch trees where parking meters once stood? Ferry boats on the Thames? Or the observation by the competition sponsor from Oasis Clothing, Maurice Bennett, who points out that the world's top amusement parks are all based on "rides": "People visit Disney World, Alton Towers and Thorpe Park in ever increasing numbers for the thrill of riding on a multitude of dif-

ferent conveyances, spending the day walking from ride to ride. Why can't we have the same diversity of "rides" in our towns or cities?"

There are so many ways to reduce dependency on the car. The revitalisation of London's public transport for a start. The encouragement of walking and cycling; the development of new transport systems; a radical re-think of the relationships between work, shopping, leisure and housing to reduce the need to travel. Think global, too,

because the problem is not just confined to London.

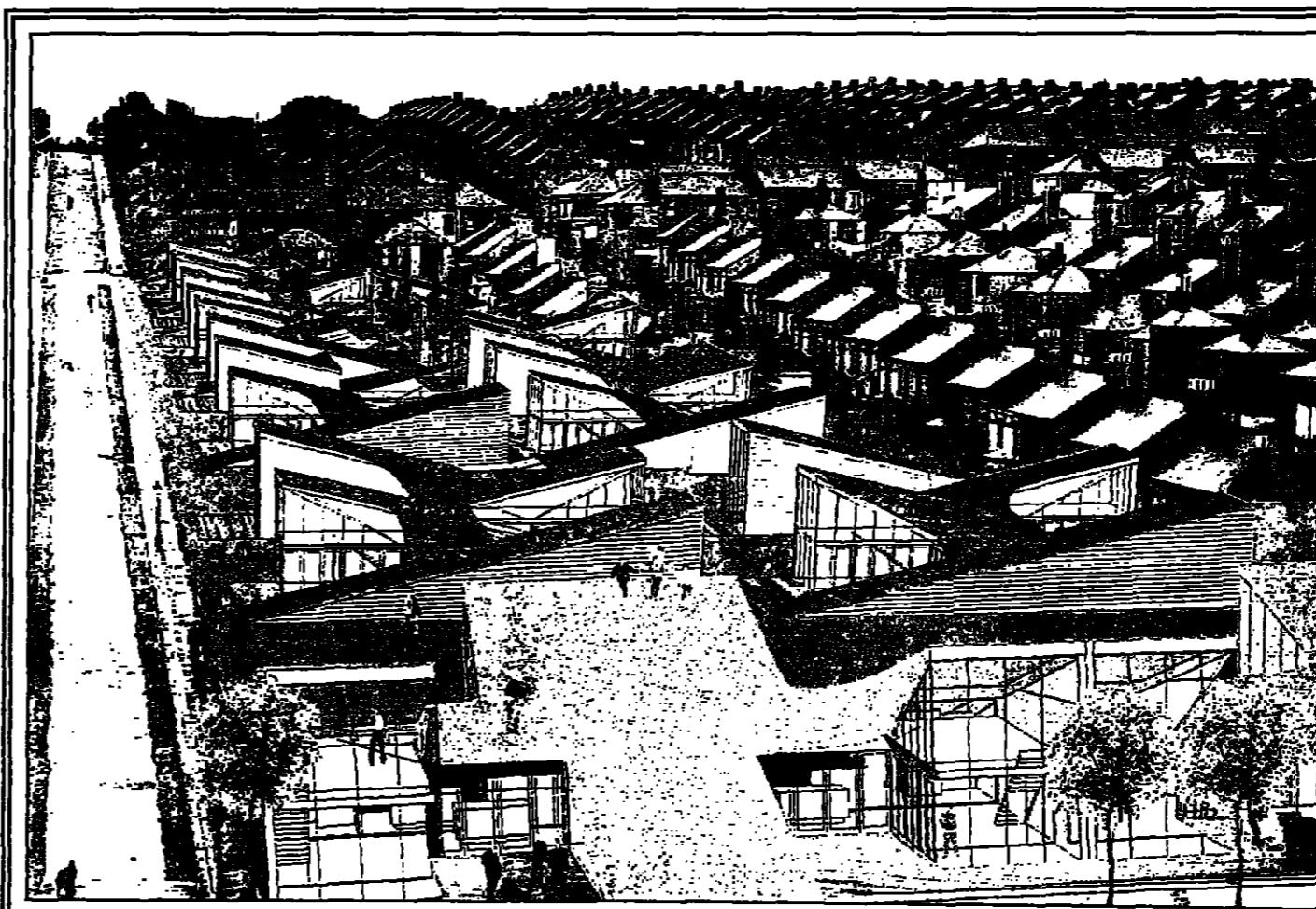
"Sustainable urban mobility" is the European Union jargon that launched one of their good ideas, the Car Free Cities Club in 1994, with 50 members, including Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Cologne, Copenhagen, Bologna, Athens and Lisbon. The cities involved have tried to regenerate urban landscapes through measures to reduce traffic. Groningen banned cars from the centre, with access only by public transport, walking or cycling. Athens only allows low pollution vehicles in the centre. Bremen and Edinburgh are developing car-free housing schemes linked to city "car clubs" which give residents access to community-owned vehicles. In Bremen, 210 flats and houses were built in 1993 when a group of planners and architects advertised for people who would be interested in a car-free housing development. Savings made on the construction were used to build bigger houses around a garden, play space and kindergarten. Linked by bus to downtown Bremen, the tram system is being extended to serve the development.

All a tram has to do is to travel faster than six miles an hour, the estimate rush-hour traffic figure for London, and the tortoise is ahead of the hare. In 1992 Metrolink in Manchester laid tramlines over heavy-duty rail track, and now trams carry twice the number of passengers as trains, with a tram shuttle to the airport. Now Crown Estates in London are investigating closing Regent Street to all but trams.

"It's no longer a matter of luxury, it's a matter of survival." Norman Foster believes that London can become a city with the lowest levels of traffic and the highest levels of retail turnover if cars are limited into its heart. His ambitious plan to free much of the historic heart of London from the tyranny of the motor car has just got the thumbs down from Westminster Council. Trafalgar Square closed on three sides, with a ban on cars and commercial vehicles from two sides of Parliament Square and the road along the length of the Houses of Parliament, will not happen despite initial enthusiasm from John Prescott. But, Sir Norman says, without a change in the infrastructure designed for the past, London will die.

*Submissions for 'A Car-Free London' should be sent to The Architecture Foundation, 30 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AU*

## Can Lord Rogers make us love cities?



### LISTEN TO THE GRASS GROW

AN URBAN housing scheme greens a brown-field site as simply as growing grass on roofs, gently pitched like beginner ski slopes. Turfed roofs are the greenest way to insulate the house, too. Alex de Rijke de Rijke, Marsh and Morgan, the architects, is looking for a developer for the "modular grass house", a cheap, flexible and energy-efficient successor to the terraced house. Lightweight foundations allow it to be built on reclaimed land. And it is less intrusive. The bigger the house, the bigger the garden, as the ramped grass roof, which forms the garden, connects the ground to the upper level in a spiral around a central outdoor room. A house for six people, each with their own room and sharing living space within a 10m x 13m plot, would cost £92,500 to build. Back-to-back, the grass house achieves high-density urban housing. The more are built, the less they cost. In the suburbs a house costing £65,000 can accommodate a family of four in the equivalent of a four-or-five-bedroom semi.

AT THE quaintly named Urban Villages Forum conference in Manchester this week, the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott – a down-to-earth man not much given to visions – was ebullient as he launched a task force, led by the architect, Richard Rogers, to replace charmless urban sprawl with civilised places that people can love.

He said: "Urban renaissance isn't just about our living environment. It's first and foremost about people. It's about building communities in cities and towns where people know and respect one another. More, it's where they care about one another and can enjoy life as a community."

This commitment to brown-field sites means less countryside being carved up into housing estates. Over the next decade, 60 per cent of new homes will be built on previously developed or recycled land in towns and cities.

Lord Rogers, pondering on the sort of places people want to live in and how to achieve well-designed, sustainable dwellings, called on local communities, builders and planners, developers and architects to contribute to the debate.

The new task force will tackle many of the crucial issues of our times: the decline of cities, the rebuilding of crumbling infrastructure, housing affordability, crime and traffic congestion.

It aims to integrate housing, shops, workplaces, parks and civic facilities into close-knit communities that are both charming and functional, and feature a wide range of types of housing.

Graffiti-daubed tower blocks and

housing association renovations will be examined alongside dinky houses for the private sector.

One of the driving forces in urban regeneration throughout Britain has been loft dwellings. As telephone exchanges, print works, textile mills and factories closed and schools and churches emptied, local authorities allowed property developers to turn them into chic apartments with desirable inner-city addresses. They missed a great opportunity for urban regeneration to go hand-in-hand with housing in the public sector.

A major contributor to the debate will be Richard Rogers himself, who designed the Millennium Dome.

chairs the Architecture Foundation and is one of the most high-profile architects in Britain.

Here are some of his thoughts for the task force to start with:

#### On regenerating cities

"I've always lived in the city. I'm passionate about cities. Londoners have had an easier time than inhabitants of cities such as Sheffield and parts of Glasgow and Manchester and Liverpool, which have higher unemployment. They have bigger problems to get over in the post-industrial age – that's the key phrase to describe what is happening to our cities.

"Cities have been bad places for a long time. Now we need to change our attitude to living in them."

#### On living in the country

"The industrial revolution left us with the feeling that we all wanted to live in the country. As leaders of the industrial revolution, we suf-

fared. The world's biggest slump in the 1890s made industrial cities terrible places to live in. The coal and steel and shipbuilding cities became awfully polluted.

"As we virtually stopped heavy industry, shifting from brown to brain into service industries, we sought the countryside."

#### At seven to ten miles an hour in a car in London you are doing bloody badly'

taxis drivers were there, but there was just a sea of hands.

"A lot of people said, 'we can't go on as it is, with such heavy congestion. But when Norman Foster developed the World Squares plan to clear areas around Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square of traffic it was turned down by West-

minster Council. Parochial, that's what I call it. Nimbys – Not In My Back Yard.

"We still travel, on average, at 10 miles an hour, and yet Westminster Council talks about 30 seconds' delay in a journey as a knock-on effect of pedestrianisation. What does that mean?"

"One of their arguments has been that up to 30 seconds of delay are caused at certain points, yet that is totally irrelevant up against the totality."

"Traffic movements are more fluid than we thought, as we discovered when Hammersmith Bridge was closed in London."

On the launch of the Car-Free London competition, by the Architecture Foundation:

"The aim of the foundation is to bring about a more joyous view of movement in our capital. We're not really talking about cars, except to point out that at seven to ten miles

an hour in London in a car, you are doing bloody badly."

"Why not have electronic roller-skate carts? Let's use our imagination. At one end you have trams and buses; at the other (in-line skates); and below ground an amazing Underground system. The car really isn't important any more, even though I recognise in my book *Cities for a Small Planet* that it remains this century's most liberating and desired technological product."

"It is cheap because it is manufactured in volume, and is subsidised. It is practical because cities have not been planned to rely upon public transport and it is an irresistible cultural icon that delivers glamour and status. But all that is changing."

"Strasbourg, where I built the European Court of Justice, has a series of white electric cars parked outside the rail station. When you come out you swipe your card

through a meter which frees the car, and you drive up to 50 km. Like renting a car, it's charged to your card."

"In Florence there are free bikes at the place where you park your car to enter the city. Your car becomes your credit for returning the bike."

On travelling in London: "I use a bike to go to work every day and anywhere within a five-mile radius. Sometimes I take the Tube or cabs."

"Cabs should be sold cheaper petrol than the rest of us because they do not park in London. You could argue that minibuses should have cheaper petrol as well, because they provide a service for a great many people. Israel observes that pricing policy."

"The department of Transport, Environment and the Regions and the new Mayor of London will have to apply the controls. And it needs concentrated media attention. We treat the public like dummies."

uture  
Nomic Niesewand

## MUSIC

## A Trick but no treats

AT THIS late stage, it is impossible to contemplate the idea of Cheap Trick touring without recalling the moment in *This is Spinal Tap* when the band learn that "Sex Farm Woman" has become a big hit in Japan, and decide to get together for one last money harvest.

The irony of tonight is that Cheap Trick are touring to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the album that probably inspired the reference in the first place. *Cheap Trick at Budokan*, a live album recorded in 1978 in front of a delirious Tokyo audience, was the record that turned Cheap Trick from a mildly amusing American approximation of Slade into, for a brief period in the late Seventies, one of the biggest bands on earth. Their influence is equally to blame for big-haired timewasters such as Poison as it is due thanks for one or two of Nirvana's more tuneful excursions. One British group - The Wildhearts - have made a career out of doing nothing but sounding like Cheap Trick.

Though at least one of the quartet is the fat side of 50, they still appear to have all their own hair and teeth, and turn in a reasonably energetic performance, especially guitarist and principal songwriter Rick Nielsen, who throws so many plecums into the crowd that it is statistically unlikely that anyone left at the end of the evening with fewer than six. Nor are they lacking in confidence, starting out with "Want You To Want Me", probably their best-known song and certainly the one on which their constituent influences - Seventies American radio rock and

## POP

CHEAP TRICK  
ASTORIA  
LONDON

British glam - co-mingled most attractively. Unfortunately, they play it as if they have not heard it, never mind rehearsed it, since it was last a hit. Also, the decision to open with this song has the sort of effect on the momentum of the evening as serving dessert before the soup. Thinking of good reasons to stick around for the rest of a Cheap Trick set after they've done "I Want You To Want Me" is, intellectually, a step up from attempting to prove Fermat's Last Theorem.

There was, granted, the reasonably cute 1979 single "Dream Police". There was also "The Flame", the atrocious, lighter-waving ballad that allowed Cheap Trick a second coming of sorts when it was a world-wide number one in 1988, and hearing it again would doubtless induce a warming nostalgic cringe.

Before those, Cheap Trick insist on treating us to some of their more recent material, which induces a dull ache in the spleen and prompts the question of which is more remarkable - that grown people are playing this tuneless twaddle, or that this grown person is standing here listening to it. We are all getting paid, I guess, but when they announce that they are going to let the bass player sing one, I leave them to it.

ANDREW MUELLER

They may play cheap and cheerful twaddle, but at least the ageing rockers still have their own hair and teeth



Neville Elder

## The rock'n'roll lifestyle is good for your circulation

Got the limited-edition tour T-shirt and the reissued CD? Now read the book. By Stephen Jelbert

ABOUT THIRTY years ago, popular music started to become the subject of serious contemplation. Magazines like *Rolling Stone* and *Cross-daddy* devoted their pages to analysis, then writers such as Greil Marcus offered learned tomes on the music and its culture. The rock book is now a standby of publishers' lists, though still mysteriously an undervalued resource, selling to people who often read little else.

Sean Body, owner of Helter Skelter, in London's former Tin Pan Alley, Denmark Street, saw a niche and filled it. "Occasionally I'd read a review of a great sounding book, and not be able to find it anywhere," he said. "The plan was al-

ways to set up a store with our print books too, and eventually get into publishing ourselves."

With mail order constituting nearly half his business, he seems to have spotted a gap in the market. Magazines that treated music seriously started to print 10,000-word articles, and CD reissues would include excellent sleeve notes, well before publishers caught up with this market. So it seemed like the right time for us."

And with books like Patrick Humphries' limp but unchallenged biography of Nick Drake selling

around ten thousand copies in hardback - £18.99, good business if you can get it - publishers are starting to twig. Jake Lingwood at Ebury Press is another one looking forward, realising that today's cash-in can be tomorrow's blacklist. The catalogue that all publishers depend upon. He bemoans the conservatism of commissioning editors. "A lot think that books are just the Stones, Beatles and Dylan"; while he aims to pick up something that no one has yet done. His next projects are the hugely popular Charlatans and the influential Kraftwerk.

Print-runs for new books generally run at around five thousand, or five times what a new fiction title can expect to sell. Aerosmith's recent "autobiography" had a six-figure print-run in the States in hardback, and should sell another half a million at airports and news-stands. Though that may be chickenfeed for an act that signed a £25m record deal, profile counts, and the lurid stories do their image no harm. As Sean Body says, "Unless the book tells us something we don't already know, then we don't want to know about it."

**Rock 'n' roll Babylon: a short guide**  
*Up and down with the Rolling Stones* (Tony Sanchez)  
The autobiography of Keith Richards' heroin dealer, Spanish Tony, was there, living the low life, told in impeccable tabloidese by collaborator John Blake. Best story involves Jimmy Miller (Stones engineer, now deceased) buying a big bag of bad stag which nearly kills him. Tony goes to rouse Miller from his OD and is ordered by the boss to offer a desultory sum for the remaining drugs.

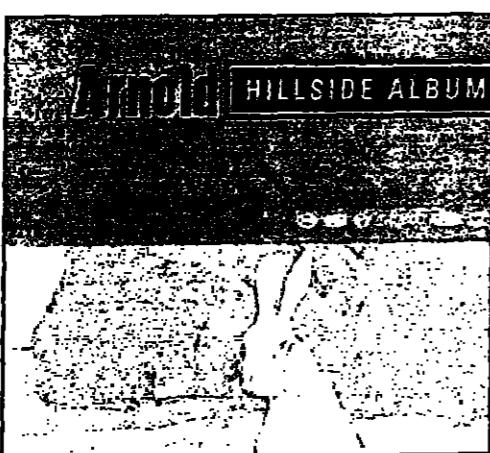
**Long Time Gone**  
(David Crosby)  
He may look like Jimmy Greaves crossed with a walrus, but the Cros uses more medication in this book than the NHS. Crashes cars full of guns and drugs, buys a yacht, sleeps with millions of "chicks". The word "salty" appears frequently.  
**Hammer of the Gods**  
(Stephen Davis)  
The daddy of them all, this account of young men with unlimited wealth and power follows Led Zeppelin around the world, using violence, and MCs. Many shabby deaths.

diabolism, under-age girls and dead fish as expressions of their success.

**Nica: Songs they never play on the Radio**  
(James Young)  
Just down from Cambridge, Young finds himself tinkling the ivories for the once beautiful ex-Velvets singer, now strung out on heroin. The definitive tale of life at the bottom.  
**Please Kill Me**  
(Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain)  
You'll be amazed how much smack had to do with the destruction of the punk scene in this oral account which also features the Velvets, the Stooges, and MCs. Many shabby deaths.

## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



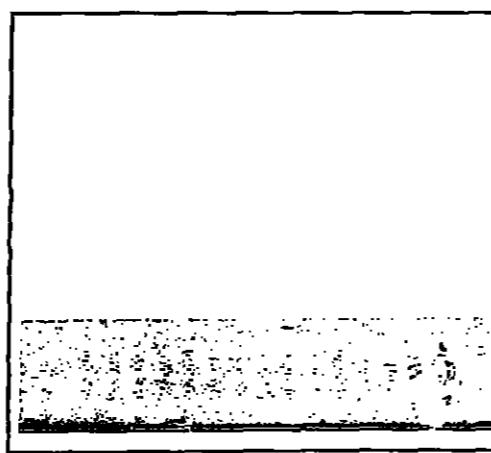
## CD CHOICE

ARNOLD  
HILLSIDE ALBUM  
(Creation CRECD 231)

EXQUISITE MELODIES, subtly emotive harmonies, graceful guitars: Arnold's second album contains many of the virtues of last year's demo-tape debut *The Barn Tapes* - no surprise, given that it also contains some of the very same songs, re-recorded here to no great advantage, but welcome nonetheless. The achingly elegant "Windsor Park" and "Face" were that album's standout tracks, and here they represent a beacon of quality towards which the rest of the *Hillside Album* aims, with substantial degrees of success.

Arnold's compositions focus on personal, private moments of hope and sadness, shuffling gently into earshot as if embarrassed at making too great a claim on our attentions. They needn't worry, really: with their high, breathy harmonies sunk into soft beds of acoustic guitar, tracks like "Fleas Don't Fly" and "Hillside" possess an air of poignant mystery that is utterly beguiling.

Sometimes the approach doesn't work completely, the whimsical "Curio" and annoying "Rabbit" are half-formed ideas which don't really gel. But there's more than enough compensation in tracks such as "Goodbye Grey" and "Fishounds". It's rare that a British band manages to capture this depth of emotion without compromising their essentially rustic nature. The result is quiet, life-affirming pop which eases its way gently into one's consciousness.



## DEEP DISH

Junk Science  
(Deconstruction 74321 580342)

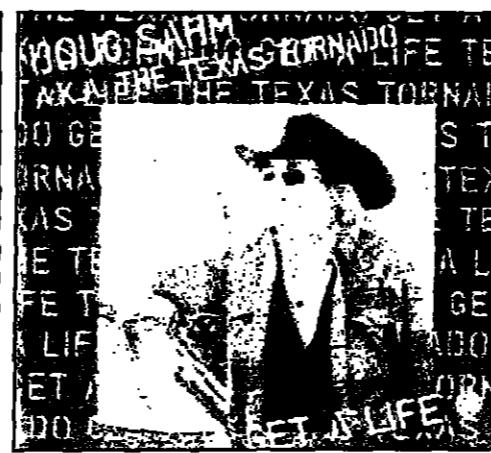
THE PIONEERING efforts of such artists as Derrick May and Juan Atkins went largely unheeded in their own country. American techno has, with one or two exceptions, rather lagged behind its European and British equivalents. This above-average offering from Deep Dish, a Washington DC duo, profits from its relative isolation, which has allowed them to blend elements without worrying about stepping out into forbidden territories.

The standout track on this album is "The Future of the Future", a collaboration with Everything But The Girl, sung in the typically calm, measured manner Tracey Thorn brings to EBTG's dance crossovers: she is like the swan, gliding serenely along whilst the synthesisers paddle fruitfully beneath the surface.

Elsewhere, "Stranded" occupies a sort of half-way house between techno and indie, "Chocolate City" offers a twitching funk homage to Seventies Afro-soul, and "Persepolis" adds distinctively tart, eastern-Mediterranean touches with what sounds very much like a bouzouki.

For the most part, though, *Junk Science* deals in what could be called enigmatic techno, and employs a series of shifting, polyrhythmic grooves that are neither strictly hardcore nor ambient, and a world view best expressed by their contention that "Mohammed is Jesus is Buddha is love, is the way I see it".

That all sounds reasonable enough, especially for Americans.



## DOUG SAHM A.K.A. THE TEXAS TORNADO

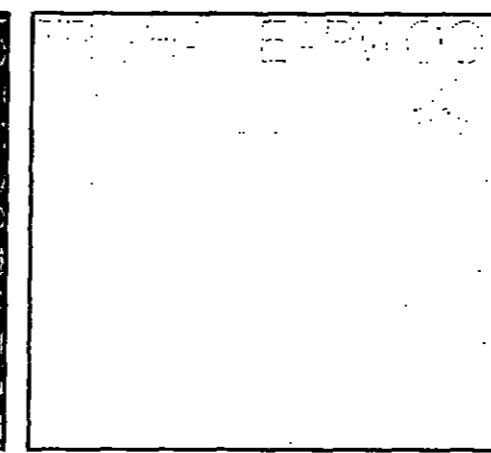
Get A Life  
(Munich MUSA 5051)

TEX-MEX KINGPIN Doug Sahm - that is Sir Douglas to you - is another American who possesses a refreshingly outgoing attitude. Clearly he is a man with not so much divided as shared loyalties: on the delightful *Get A Life* he features songs celebrating Norway ("St Olav's Gate"), Holland ("Goodbye San Francisco - Hello Amsterdam"), Sweden ("Malmö Mama") and Canada ("Louis Riel"), alongside his native Texas (represented by the full version of "The Ballad of Davy Crockett"). As if that were not enough, even the obligatory hidden track on the CD appears to be about Louisiana.

The engaging attitude carries over into the music, which has a rollicking good-time feel, whatever mode Doug is working in - which is sometimes difficult to discern exactly. Sahm having absorbed so much music, and so many musical influences since his Fifties' teen-prodigy origins that he has become a category all of his own.

His long-time right-hand man, Augie Meyers, is on hand to add the characteristic organ stabs that made the Sir Douglas Quintet's Sixties' hit, "She's About A Mover", a perennial classic, and the rest of his band kicks up a storm, never more so than on the rowdy "Malmö Mama".

As they bring it crashing to a perfect halt, Doug says, "There's your rock'n'roll", in a tone of voice that suggests, "That wasn't so hard, was it?". Not one little bit, Sir.



## TRISHA YEARWOOD

Where Your Road Leads  
(MCA UMD 80513)

THE AIRWAVES are currently thick with young, ambitious country princesses, those Leann Rimes and Shania Twain routinely heralded by staggering claims of multi-platinum success, all manoeuvring with ruthless efficiency for even greater market share. But of them all, only Irish Yearwood appears to have the tools to occupy Tammy Wynette's vacant throne.

*Where Your Road Leads* suggests that Yearwood is actually setting her sights elsewhere, however. She does not just want to be the pin-up of the line-dancing crowd - she wants the kind of global crossover success enjoyed by Celine Dion. And listening to the perfectly poised balladry of "Never Let You Go Again", and the potentially massive "Love Wouldn't Lie To Me", it is clear she also possesses the tools for that job, too.

Not that she is about to turn her back on her core audience, mind. The slyly engaging "That Ain't The Way I Heard It" and "Wouldn't Any Woman" are well-crafted examples of her trademark, confrontational battle-of-the-sexes style, with the latter's complex tone of feisty resignation an especially effective demonstration of Yearwood's vocal sophistication.

The material, which is drawn from sources as disparate as Diane Warren, Al Anderson and the intriguing team of Carole King & Paul Brady, sometimes dips below the desired calibre, but not enough to jeopardise the considerable prospects of this album.



## VARIOUS ARTISTS

Acoustic Waves 1968-1975  
(Island 524 376-2)Electric Currents 1967-1975  
(Island 524 427-2)

LAST YEAR'S *Ska's The Limit* and *Rhythm & Blues Beat* compilations made a fine job of summarising the reggae and R&B origins of Chris Blackwell's Island Records. These third and fourth volumes of the label's retrospective series cover the subsequent growth of, respectively, folk-rock and prog-rock, though the generic divisions aren't really that exclusive. John Martyn and Traffic may be the only acts included on both collections, but a cursory re-acquaintance with King Crimson's opus, "The Court Of The Crimson King", suggests that, just as much as the folk movement, the "progressive" agenda involved searching for the future in the past.

As you'd expect, *Acoustic Waves* leans heavily on Fairport Convention and its various satellites, but is less effective away from that axis, particularly when the folk-rock tag is distorted to include dreary classical-rockers, Renaissance. With contributions from Jethro Tull, Free, Spooky Tooth and, er, Heavy Jelly, *Electric Currents* starts out resembling Island's famous budget samplers *You Can All Join In* and *Nice Enough To Eat*, but broadens in its second half to take in the Roxy/Perry/Eno/Cale caucus that revived the label's reputation in the mid-Seventies. But only occasionally does the album approach the peak of its opening track, Traffic's "Dear Mr Fantasy".

# Get up (and feel the muscle of funk)

The outlandish and eccentric Bootsy Collins is the godfather of the funky bassline, and he can still take us to the bridge. By Nick Coleman

"WHAT'S BOOTSY DOIN'?" That was his catch-phrase. At least it was in the very late Eighties following his return from a funketeer's sabbatical. What he was doing then was what he has always done, which is to stick to the musical zeitgeist like a Velcro-wrapped bomb, and then blow it up.

In 1988 it was Prince calling the stylistic shots, so Bootsy's *What's Bootsy Doing?* on Columbia was a plastic pop-funk album, featuring silly voices, cute tunes, synthetic textures and absolutely murderous basslines. It wasn't the best Bootsy album ever, and it wasn't as catchy as Prince's *Loungery*, but it got played an awful lot more in our house. The reason? It had bottom. In the land of cutting-edge R&B, the man with murderous basslines is king. And Bootsy has always had the best basslines.

The flamboyant, Ohio-born, Motown-loving bass guitarist was discovered—if ever a force of nature could be “discovered”—by James Brown and promptly co-opted with his guitarist brother, Catfish, into the newly-formed JB's rhythm section. The first record they made was called “The Grunt”; the second one was “Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine”, the slashing, faintly atonal, one-legged judder which has since become the most famous funk riff in the world.

Bootsy recalls the making of “Sex Machine” as a largely serendipitous affair. He and Catfish were merely jamming, “trying to get a whole ‘nutha sound—just tryin’ to be different. James didn’t tell me what to play or nuthin’. He only ever told me about playin’ on ‘the one’. I

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hadn't heard of that before but, man, was I gung-ho.”

“The one” has entered funk lore as its only undisputed formal principle. “The one” is the first beat of the bar. What a funk bass player does is hit it, hard as he can, then bounce around the remaining three beats like a cannonball until “the one” comes round again—big, fat, welcoming and ready to be jumped on. Great bass playing in this con-

text is about using notes and space with the right economy; it is about leaving out as much as putting in. Classic, JB's-style funk depends absolutely on the ability of its bass players to keep its rather rigid structures from ossifying into a skeleton incapable of movement. If drums are the bones of funk, the bass is its muscle. The rest is mere fleshing out.

Bootsy's next significant gig was with George Clinton's P-Funk academy, where he quickly established himself, not only as principle architect of P-Funk's musical foundations, but as a cartoon character. As his clobber became more outlandish, so his vocal contribution to P-Funk discourse became more prominent—mostly, he added a faintly maternal hooting sound, usually to be heard over events in Clinton's sub-oedipal tales of life in the bosom of the funk. A solo career beckoned, and the Bootzilla got one. He even got the more self-consciously hip white rock fans of the mid-Seventies to dig him too.

By the early Eighties, however, the P-Funk academy had all but dissolved in a riot of internal dissension. Bootsy continued to make the odd solo record, some of which were all right, all of which stuck closely to the prevailing fashion in R&B styling. But in the end, it took the dance music

explosion at the end of the decade to fully reawaken the slumbering Thumposaurus and propel him into the bosom of Bill Laswell, the New York producer famous above all for bringing together diverse musical species and causing them to breed.

Collins has since made electro-noise records; he has made avant-metal-hip hop-jazz records; he has made records that bear no relation in style to any recognisable musical sub genre; and he has made perfectly delightful contemporary R&B records, like his new one, *Fresh Outta P-University* on WEA. This is where he came in. His favourite bassline of all time is James Jamerson's gorgeous lollipop beneath Stevie Wonder's “I Was Made To Love Her” in 1967: “Every note was deliberate, no filler, absolutely precise, recorded on a Fender Precision bass with the treble cut off—just stood me up.” And although P-Funk remains “the DNA of what I do”, the fact is that bone, muscle, flesh and gristle are what really counts in the funk field. As Bootsy says: “I listen to what goes on in my head, man, and try to just feel it.”

You can feel the most beautiful body in black music at the Barbican on Monday.

Bootsy Collins plays the Barbican on Monday 20 July. *Fresh Outta P-University* is out now on WEA



Bootsy Collins, the flamboyant Ohio-born bass guitarist

## FIVE BUMPIN' BASSLINES FROM THE HOUSE OF BOOTSY

James Brown  
*Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine* (King, 1970)

YOU DO NOT hear the bassline to “Sex Machine” so much as sense it, with those obscure lobes of the brain that deal with sphincter activity. The groove of “Sex Machine” is in conventional 4/4 time, but once the Godfather “counts it off” in traditional pantomime style, we enter a realm in which time is rubberised. This pliability could not be achieved, of course, without the hyper-strict time-keeping sensibilities of the JB Horns, drummer Jabo Starks and brother Catfish Collins's snickety guitar in the foreground—remove those rigid elements and “Sex Machine” would be

like a body without bones. As it is, though, the cut is a concerto for Bootsy's personal biology. We always get a big hit on “the one”, but after that anything goes as notes and spaces dilate, push, pull and bubble against each other like nature itself. Chord changes? Who needs 'em, baby-bubba?

For an even more artful, if slightly less satisfying, account of Bootsy's early method, check out the ultra-sparse “Superbad” from the same year—possibly the first bassline in funk to cascade like an avalanche of woolly beach balls.

Parliament  
*Aqua Boogie* (Casablanca, 1978)

THE TROUBLE with P-Funk records:

they were so densely packed with stuff including the sound the kitchen sink makes, that there was no room left in the mix to give the bassline its due weight, depth and prominence. Still, if your bass frequency is tiny, who better to make it talk than Bootsy?

For the purpose of making the jumble that is “Aqua Boogie” talk, Bootsy simplified his line to the point where it is not much more than a syncopated cadence straddling the bar line, with added squeaks and groans for decorative effect—Bootsy's classic P-Funk strategy, in other words. “Aqua Boogie” is also a fruity example of the Bootzilla's long-standing creative association with keyboard/techno-whizz Bernie Worrell.

rell. Is it a keyboard instrument making that thumping noise? Is it a treated bass guitar? Or is it a bit of both? Whatever it is, it's evil.

William Bootsy Collins  
*Landshark* (Warner Bros., 1982)

THE ONE Giveth, The Count Taketh Away is not Bootsy's best-remembered album, partly because it fell victim to the gaudy flat, shiny production values of the period. Never mind. The bassline to “Landshark” is a masterpiece among underfloor rumbling systems, despite its nasty surface texture. It even has a pleasantly loopy tune to top it off. This is the great man in untreated, thumbs-up, post-disco slap mode, whanging against the beat like a hawser, until

we get to the bridge, when extra ordinance is called up for an almighty sliding show on “the one”. Do not listen to “Landshark” after a big lunch.

Bootsy's Rubber Band  
*Jungle Bass* (4th & Broadway, 1990)

BOOTSY DISAPPEARED for a while in the Eighties, for the usual unhealthy reasons. “Jungle Bass” marked his return—and his abidinghip to the contemporary groove—with an extended house party, produced by the troglodyte genius of Greenwich Village Bill Laswell. “Jungle Bass” is a tumbling dance groove, nimbly sequenced on synth-bass and augmented with slappy bubbles and Fred Wesley's Horny Horns (aka the JB Horns). Then we

arrive at the entropic middle zone, at which point the bottom drops out and then makes a sulphurous return in squelching “space bass” form for a period, just to tee you up nicely for the doubled-up closing pulse to fade. Four-on-the-floor was never so packed with sheer, unadulterated jam. An exercise in controlled mayhem, all 13 minutes of it.

Praxis  
*Animal Behaviour* (Axiom, 1992)

AS YOU would expect, maturity has tempered Bootsy's appetite for excess, and “Animal Behaviour” is a lovely example of his latter-day capacity for doing the tasteful thing when restraint is called for. Again, this is a Bernie Worrell connection,

### RIFFS

#### THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY JEAN MICHEL JARRE



Jarre: I always said I'd like to play with Marvin'

First record:  
*The Shadows, Apache*  
I think I was 12, or something. I was a big fan of The Shadows. They were one of the first instrumental rock bands and Hank Marvin is certainly one of the best musicians in the world. Jimi Hendrix said he was the best guitarist in the world, and I agree.

It was really the beginning of pop music, when everything was still in a sense, not showbiz. It was quite pure, before the depression with drugs and all that, in a naive kind of way, but in a good sense of the word.

And I always said I would like to play with Marvin, and in the Docklands concert a few years ago he came on stage and we shared a very great moment. So it is linked to part of my life. Now I wouldn't listen to it every day, but if by chance I do hear it, it obviously rings a bell, and it is linked with pleasure.

Last record:  
*Massive Attack, Mezzanine*  
I actually bought this; nobody gave it to me; it was real cash coming out of my pocket. I love all the Bristol sound and really like the Mas-

sive Attack concept. It is a great record. I found it very interesting that it is different from the previous albums. This is darker in a sense, more electro-rock and the bass and mood has changed. It is a good evolution and it is nice when artists you respect can evolve and still keep their authenticity.

Jean-Michel Jarre's *Through 02* has been released on Epic

## Young Turk who got the blues

Atlantic Records is 50 this year. Ahmet Ertegun, its founder, spoke to James Maycock



in the city whose audience and musicians were racially integrated and Lester Young, Pee Wee Russell and members of Count Basie's and Duke Ellington's orchestras all performed at the event.

In 1947, Ertegun with Herb and Miriam Abramson, started Atlantic Records in New York. Their first fruitful single was “Drinkin' Wine, Spo-Dee-O-Dee, Drinkin' Wine”, by Granville “Stick” McGee in 1949. Over the following five years, they released a successive flow of consummate singles by such artists as Ruth Brown, Joe Turner, Ray Charles and La Vern Baker, among many others, all aimed at the black audience.

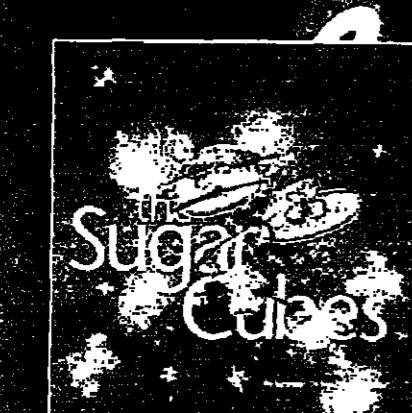
Although not a musician, Ahmet Ertegun wrote about 50 songs for artists on the roster. When an idea for a song sprang into his head, he would “hop in a cab and go down where you could make a record for a quarter”. He would return to his office with the freshly pressed record and play the basic melody to the musician.

In 1955, Nesuhi was to the company that began because Ertegun, an unemployed philosophy student who loved jazz, was unsure of what career he wanted. Ertegun modestly explains that back in 1947, “I thought I'd just do this for a while before I went back to Turkey. But once we started we couldn't stop.”

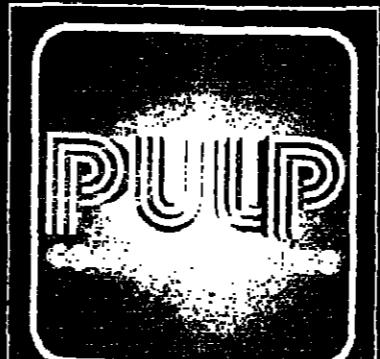
released pop and rock records by Sonny and Cher and Buffalo Springfield, among others. White rock groups, unlike black soul musicians, sold large quantities of albums and with rock music becoming increasingly fashionable, Ertegun embraced it. Although Atlantic continued recording black musicians, their courting of white rock groups was criticised. But Ertegun believes that the influence of the blues on these white groups has not defected in interest from black musicians. Ironically, just as Atlantic was displaying an interest in white rock music, they were bought by Warner/Resite in 1967 who wanted to increase their own roster of black musicians.

One of the pleasures of buying an antiquated disc released on Atlantic Records is gazing at the rows of miniature album covers on the inner sleeves to admire the myriad of musicians that recorded for them. Today, its history still attracts contemporary musicians to the company, a company that began because Ertegun, an unemployed philosophy student who loved jazz, was unsure of what career he wanted. Ertegun modestly explains that back in 1947, “I thought I'd just do this for a while before I went back to Turkey. But once we started we couldn't stop.”

## Recommended releases.



Sugarcubes  
*The Great Crossover Potential*  
The band that put Björk on the indie map introduce the vocal talents of Björk to the world via white noise. Some of the maddest lyrics of the late 80s is deservedly celebrated on this wondrous collection. Includes ‘Regina’, ‘Hit’ and the sublime ‘Birthday’.



Pulp  
*Pulp Goes To The Disco*  
Recorded back in the days when Jarvis and the band were still dreaming of the dubious delights of fame, rather than experiencing them first-hand, ‘Pulp Goes To The Disco’ dips into the archives of Fire Records for an insight into the psyche of a truly glam band.



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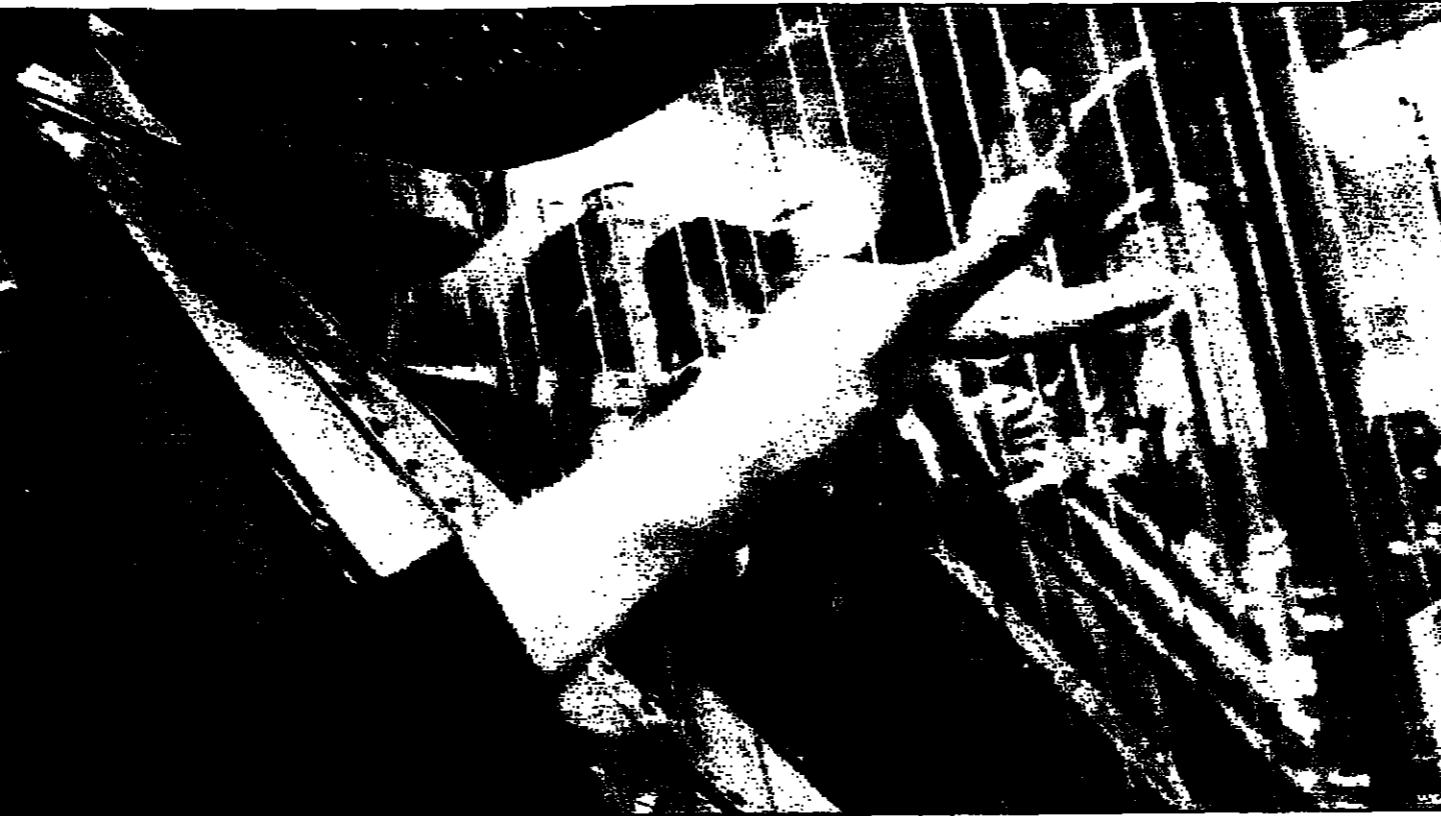
Tonight sees the start of Proms week, one of Britain's best loved musical institutions. And though the Union Jacks still fly in the Albert Hall, the season has acquired a more international flavour. By Nick Kimberley

# Britannia without the Brit

IT'S THAT time of year when London's classical music scene all but shuts up shop to make room for that lovable, lumbering beast, the BBC Proms season. From celebrating the 900th anniversary of Hildegard of Bingen, to premiering new works with the ink still set on the manuscript paper, this year's Proms season spans just about the whole of Western classical music, as well as offering one or two sordes beyond the Western classical borders. The fans have been anticipating it for months, and so have the musicians. Anthony Parsons, principal trombone with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (BBC SO, the nearest the Proms get to a house band), calculates that this is his 29th consecutive Proms season. The orchestra will give 13 concerts, which Parsons considers a relatively light load: "but I've been in training... After all this time, it still gives me a kick. Even the Last Night of the Proms."

Ah yes, the Last Night - balloons, Union flags, "Rule Britannia" and "Jerusalem". This year any jingoism will be undercut, in the nicest possible way because "Rule, Britannia" will be sung by an American, Thomas Hampson. "Bizarre, isn't it?" admits Andrew Davis, the BBC SO's Chief Conductor, who seems to enjoy the Last Night even more than the audience. "Perhaps it's rather silly for an American to be singing 'Rule, Britannia', but some people would say it's silly for anyone to be singing it. I'll remind us that it's not an exclusively British occasion, and it's about time."

When the 1995 Last Night premiered, Harrison Birtwistle's "Panic", the BBC switchboard was jammed for hours. As Anthony Parsons recalls: "It made a lot of people angry. In fact, it made a lot of the musicians angry. It was angry music, and it needed to be played that way. I enjoyed it a lot. It was like being in a jazz big band." This year's



Ten harpists rehearse for tonight's first Prom concert, Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*

Last Night includes two contemporary pieces, but according to Andrew Davis, "Neither will hold the terrors that Panic induced. The first will be Hugh Wood's 'Variations for Orchestra', which we premiered during our Japanese tour last year. Hugh's an important composer, and this is an accessible piece with a great range of mood and texture. The other contemporary work will be Thomas Ades's 'These Premises are Alarmed', a brilliant little firework written for the opening of the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester."

But before the Last Night there will be the First Night, kicking things off with Berlioz's "The Damnation of Faust", a spectacular

orchestral showpiece: tonight's performance will include no fewer than ten harps. And one ophicleide.

Usually Stephen Saunders plays trombone with the BBC SO, but tonight he has the chance to show off his ophicleide, a defunct brass instrument for which Berlioz (and hardly anybody else) had a soft spot. He recalls: "Years ago I used to see ophicleides in junk shops for forty quid. Nowadays they're very rare. I got mine from the late John Fletcher, a well known tuba player. He used to have a pair on his wall, and he loaned me one so that I could learn how to play it. This is the first time I've played it with this orchestra, and we've had to make some ad-

justments to the brass section, otherwise it can get lost, but I think it'll work really well in the Albert Hall." A point echoed by Andrew Davis: "They're rather recalcitrant instruments, but they make some wonderfully nasty noises."

Next Tuesday the BBC SO will premiere Julian Anderson's "The Stations of the Sun". Many symphony orchestras disdain new music, but not the BBC SO. Stephen Bryant is the orchestra's leader: "I know I'm biased," he admits, "but this is one of the few orchestras that can pick up a modern piece and make a decent job of it immediately. It's our specialist repertoire. Sometimes we moan about it, but it

can be exhilarating, that feeling of working out something complex, playing the right bits in the right spaces, so to speak. I've looked at Julian Anderson's piece, and it looks good, quite difficult, so it may take some time, but the test is playing it through for the first time. That's when you really find out what it's like."

Anderson himself is pleased to be working with the orchestra again. "This commission was triggered by its performance in 1995 of my 'Dyptich', conducted by Oliver Knussen, one of the best performances I've had of anything. Radio Three's Nicholas Kenyon asked me then and there to do a piece for the Proms. Of

Andrew Buterman

course I said yes, it's an irresistible opportunity. Coincidentally, I live close to the radio studio which is the orchestra's home, so I'd spend a day composing for the orchestra, then go round the corner and hear it play a concert in the evening, comparing how it played with how the piece was going. It's rare for a composer to get to know the orchestra's sound so well, and I think the piece benefitted enormously. The other great thing about the Proms is that the audience listens so carefully, there's a quality of attention and enthusiasm that certainly fed into my writing."

The BBC SO's Proms marathon makes for a punishing schedule, and says Anthony Parsons with relief, "The BBC is merciful. It gives us a week off at the end of the Proms. We need it. It can get very unpleasant in the Albert Hall on a hot night". Yet if anything, Andrew Davis has an even tougher workload - as Music Director at Glyndebourne, he has an opera festival to look after as well. "This week is kind of insane," he says gleefully. "On Tuesday I rehearsed Berlioz, on Wednesday I did the Glyndebourne dress rehearsal for Strauss's 'Capriccio', followed by another Proms rehearsal on Thursday night. Tonight it's the First Night of the Proms, tomorrow Capriccio opens, and on Sunday I start rehearsing the next Prom."

"It's wonderful. What's particularly special is the Proms audience. There's always a sense of tremendous excitement, of real relish for the variety of music. It's the best audience to play for, and that's what makes the Proms the greatest musical festival there is."

Tonight's performance of Berlioz's "The Damnation of Faust" will be broadcast live at 7.30pm by BBC2 and Radio Three. The BBC SO premieres Julian Anderson's "The Stations of the Sun", Tuesday 21 July at 7pm (0171-593 8212 for all Proms bookings)

## FOUR NOT TO MISS AT THE PROMS

John Harle  
*Angel Magick*

21 July  
The leading saxophonist John Harle conducts the London premiere of his first opera, fully staged and in the round. Concerning the Elizabethan alchemist, John Dee, the piece uses both an electronic score and live musicians, and received approving notices when it opened at the Salisburys Festival recently.

Andreas Scholl  
*Solomon*, 27 July  
*St Matthew Passion*, 23 August  
Celebrated for his vocal purity, Andreas Scholl, the German countertenor, has won acclaim for his Berlioz in *Rodeokind* at Glyndebourne recently. In the first of his two Proms appearances, he sings the title role in Handel's *Solomon*, with the Gabrieli Consort, while his second, the *St Matthew Passion* also features the celebrated tenor, Ian Bostridge.

Wayne Marshall  
*Porgy and Bess*  
1 August  
At last year's Last Night, the organist, pianist and conductor stood out with his performance of *Variations on "I Got Rhythm"*, and this year he is back conducting Gershwin's opera - something he has wanted to do since working on the famous Glyndebourne production as *répétiteur* with Simon Rattle in 1986. The stellar cast for the Proms includes Willard White, Cynthia Haymon and Damon Evans.

Yo Yo Ma  
*Tan Dun's Symphony* 1997  
3 August  
*Dvorak's Cello Concerto*  
4 August  
Ma has always had a name for radical work, so it's appropriate that he is involved with Tan Dun's innovative work, which was commissioned to mark the handover of Hong Kong to China, and features a set of 65 bells from the Fifth Century BC.

## Rhythms of the world

From Cuban cool to Kathak jazz, the beat is king at the South Bank's hot tempo week By Robert Maycock

THE LIBERATION of the South Bank Centre is one of the more unlikely by-products of the Proms. Come summer, classical musicians disappear across the Thames or on to the festival circuit. In their place is a garden of musical species that were there all the while, except that they rarely had space to put out more than a few flowers. Meltdown has been and gone, and now comes a more vivid display, originally planted in the belief that it was just an annual but turning out to be one of London's best-wearing perennials.

It took the South Bank years to discover what to do in the holidays. Sometimes, high-quality world music weeks appeared, but they were isolated. Even Meltdown began as a modern classicfest, until the door impact of a Magnus Lindberg "celebration" made audiences fall over backwards to be somewhere else. Rhythm Sticks, in contrast, started out in 1995 along the lines it has followed ever since with immediate acclaim and increasing success.

The impetus sprang from the musical community's widespread disgust at Arts Council back-tracking over orchestral funds the year before. A movement called the Main Music Agenda brought many of the smaller and more diverse practitioners together. One outcome was

a series of meetings between promoter members and South Bank management to find ways of diversifying the repertoire. I was there - as co-founder of the movement, with Priti Paintal, and chairman of the first meetings.

At this time, a string of summer dates were free, and the BBC's Pam Chowhury offered them to these promoters if they could handle a shared theme. World and international percussion was the answer, and Rhythm Sticks has stuck.

The centre's input was limited - no money, just a leaflet - but it has steadily raised the event's profile.

Always the festival that best showed off London's range and richness of contemporary and traditional music-making, it has kept drawing star attractions and this year looks in no danger of repeating itself.

The percussion requirements have been flexible. One of the first year's events was called Rhythm in me Sole: the Human Foot as Percussion. Jazz takes the main stage.

Wednesday 23 July at 7.30pm, on opening night tomorrow, with Peter Erisken's trio and Bill Bruford's Earthworks.

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At the Purcell Room (7.30pm), unfortunately, the week has several clashes. The Rhythm Xchange has a north-meets-south Indian session in which Vishnu Sahai and Karaku

dai Krishnamurthy (plus guests) make the sparks fly. This group has a Rhythm Sticks pedigree all its own, since the two drummers teamed up in Shiva Nova's 1994 date.

Dance comes into its own on Sunday (QEII 7.45pm) when Adzido Pan African Dance Ensemble drops in with "Vibrations of Africa". Its work, rooted in several countries from Ghana southwards, puts their master drummers at the forefront.

Latin fencers have to wait until Monday (QEII 8.30) and a Cuban-led session featuring Horacio Hernandez, Giovanni Hidalgo, and vibes player Victor Mendoza with his Latin Jazz Band. There is a catchable Bulgarian upbeat by solo performer Daniella Ganeva in the 6pm Purcell Room performance.

Wednesday offers another choice, between Turkey and the UK in the shape of traditional/contemporary virtuoso Burhan Ocal (Purcell Room 7.30) and a pile-up at the QEII (7.45pm) of old hands Evelyn Glennie and Ensemble Bash plus the up-and-coming BackBeat.

A three-way split on Thursday places the Phil Collins Big Band in their first London public performance

at the RFH (7.30) against Afro-Peruvian vocal star Susana Baca (QEII, 7.45pm) and Roots of Unity (Purcell Room, 7.30pm).

No such decisions on Saturday July 25 when the great Trilok Gurtu brings his Indian-rooted jazz-plus style and current band The Glimpse to the QEII (7.45pm). This is a collaboration with the Kathak dancer Shama Bhata; the Purcell Room show holds off until 10pm when Big Chill DJ Nelson Dilution mixes with live input from Joji Hirota and Pete Locker. Expect three live sets.

Rhythm Sticks has made a special feature of going beyond set-piece events, and through the week there are extra foyer, terrace and ballroom performances, including all-day music and a Rhythm Sticks Fair over the weekends. Many of the artists are doing workshops, too - a chance to update everything from drum-kit skills to Internet technique.

Nobody within earshot is likely to miss opening day, since it features the Dhol Foundation out of doors (Riverside Terrace 4.30). If you ever wondered what the thunderous drums of bhangra sound like en masse, you won't after this.

The performance style of Scott and his nine young colleagues students from Colorado College, is mesmerising. More like watching potters or weavers, or a team of people flying stunt kites (the detail

is superb). After which, it was good to hear Micheline Wandor and George Pratt disagreeing about the amount of vibrato in a woody performance of a Bach minuet by Adolf Busch's chamber players. As Wandor put it, there was "a hell of a lot".

Nobody ventured to predict how performing practice might evolve in the future, which is hardly surprising, though it is a safe bet that a lot of obscure repertoire will be rediscovered: all three presenters cooed over an aria from an oratorio by Antonio Caldara, a contemporary of Vivaldi, but, as George Pratt mentioned, there are 90 operas by him waiting in the wings. After all, at one time few people thought Rameau's operas

were resurrecting, yet they are currently being featured in *Composer of the Week*.

Meanwhile, it was announced *Spirit of the Age* itself is going to change; it will reappear on 13 September in a new form. What was wrong with the old?

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins did a good job with five Young Composers' scores on Tuesday night on Radio 3 in front of an audience full of cheering supporters.

This was the climactic concert after six months of workshops, presided over by James MacMillan and Judith Bingham, who presented each piece with exclusively

but genuinely positive remarks.

The composers' music spoke for

them, and they were spared the usual interviews. Happily, too, there was no sense of competition, but I could not resist noticing that the most economical and focused piece was, surprisingly, by the youngest, 16-year-old Thom Petty.

The most knowing and enjoyable was the *Sinfonietta* by Tom Young, kept for the end. After eight decades, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and *Firebird* still prove potent inspirations, though refracted with a sense of cheeky opportunism and striking technical know-how by Young. The clarinet solos in his first movement were real winners, yet the understated stillness of the short middle movement was even more remarkable.

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FOR NOT TO  
MISS AT THE  
PROMS

# From the melting pot

Two stars of Brazilian music have created a liquid blend of traditional samba with Western pop and the avant-garde. By Phil Johnson

THOUGH IT is not half as well known as it should be, the Brazilian singer Marisa Monte's version of Lou Reed's song "Pale Blue Eyes" from her *Rose and Charcoal* album of 1994, is a genuine, goosebumps-inducing classic. The combination of the bitter-sweet, archetypically New York lyrics together with a languid, acoustic guitar backing and vulnerable-sounding, exotically accented vocals are almost enough to make a man swoon.

When it is followed by the Portuguese lyrics of the album's next track, Paulinho da Viola's "Danca Da Solidao", already liquid sensibilities are likely to be reduced to the emotional consistency of a pool on the kitchen floor.

Tonight at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Monte plays a rare British show in a double bill with Gilberto Gil, a troubadour of the Seventies *Tropicalismo* movement, whose protest songs imbued the sensual rhythms of Rio de Janeiro's samba with a harder, political edge. Gil's international aesthetic also helped to create the conditions for the fusion of indigenous Brazilian styles and northern hemisphere pop that Monte has made her own.

Though she is a huge star in Brazil, Marisa Monte's work remains adventurous, both musically and lyrically. She has collaborated with the New York art-punk guitarist Arto Lindsay (who was brought up in Brazil) to produce albums on

which avant-garde musicians from the New York downtown scene give a spiky spin to Brazilian tunes and flavours. Her cover versions include, besides Lou Reed, a setting of a lyric by the Mexican poet Octavio Paz. She also does an enjoyable rendition of George Harrison's "Give Me Love".

Monte's primary influence, she says, simply comes from being Brazilian. "I grew up listening to samba and traditional Brazilian music, and also international pop."

**Mixing is the biggest point about Brazil: we're a racial mix, a musical mix, a religious mix'**

she says. "In Brazil we are very used to mixing our different traditions with new information from outside to create new styles."

*Rose and Charcoal* was produced by Arto Lindsay, who also co-produced with Monte her last album, *A Great Noise*, which mixed live recordings from a Brazilian tour with studio dates from New York. "Arto helped me a lot by forming a bridge with New York," Monte says. "He introduced me to artists

Tom Jobim and the Bossa Nova movement.

"Though I'm familiar with our guys, and I may work in popular Brazilian music, the information still has to be processed through my personality. I love to be Brazilian, but it's also important to be less isolated. Brazil is eight or 10 hours' flight from everywhere, at least in the northern hemisphere. Recently, things have really changed. In the past five years everybody has performed here, but this is still really new."

Like any singer from a minority-language country who is signed to an international recording contract with EMI, Monte has had to get accustomed to singing in English as much as in Portuguese, but she insists this is not a problem. "I don't have to sing in English, but I studied opera from the age of 14 to 18 and the libretti were all in German or Italian, so it's no big deal to me. But Brazilian is a beautiful language: it's very musical, and there's also the advantage that in Brazilian I have no accent! I learnt French at school and lived in Italy for a year, so other languages are easy."

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such as Laurie Anderson, and also to other Brazilians in New York. I met a lot of people through him, and keep making use of this bridge."

*A Great Noise* was notable as much for its cover as for its music. The sleeve graphics were renderings of erotic drawings by the Brazilian artist Carlos Zefiro, who in the Fifties and Sixties produced hundreds of soft-porn cartoon books. Although Zefiro worked under a pseudonym, his work proved so popular that he became a kind of clandestine cult figure.

"He wrote for 15 years and sold millions of these books," Monte says. "All my father's generation learnt everything from him, and although in the end he became afraid of his fame and stopped doing new books, people kept reprinting the old ones. Nobody knew who he really was until he showed up in 1990, when he was 75. He died in 1992."

"I brought him to my work, not for the sexual side but rather for his popularity, because I also do popular work. He worked in black and white or with only one colour, using cheap paper; so it was available for all. I also like to be direct, to be colloquial, and to be not just for an elite: I like to be popular."

In Brazil, Monte's popularity is such that she is regularly mobbed by fans when she leaves her home in sophisticated Rio to go on tour. "In Rio there are lots of artists, so I don't get bothered," she says. "If I'm



Singer Marisa Monte: 'I like to be direct, to be colloquial... and not just for an elite'

touring, it's normal that there's a lot of people in front of the hotel, but I have my strategies: my guitar, my music, my books. I live as well as I do at home."

The double bill with Gilberto Gil at the RFH will be the biggest occasion of the year for London's Brazil-

ian community (apart from the World Cup, and they will hardly want to remember that). What everyone wants to know is whether Monte and Gil will play together: a symbolic meeting of the old and the new schools.

"I don't know if we will play," she says teasingly. "But he's one of the

best guitarists in Brazil, and he plays on *Rose and Charcoal*. Maybe we will do a song together".

*Marisa Monte and Gilberto Gil play the Royal Festival Hall, SBC, London, tonight. Information: 0171-960 4242*

## Buzz over Britain as regions step in where the big boys fear to tread

A new breed of regional music magazines shows where the scene is at. By Dominic Utton

POP MUSIC is the most tickle of phenomena. Scenes and bands come and go - pop is the star that burns twice as bright and for half as long.

And it is this fickleness, this flux, that keeps the industry vital and exciting. Because no matter how much the record companies, the merchandisers and the media try to control or create a scene, they are forever one step behind them. The simple truth is that they are reflectors, never catalysts.

Pop is all about grass-roots level enthusiasm. You will never see the Next Big Thing premiered on *Top Of*

*The Pops*. You may read about them in the NME or Melody Maker - but sandwiched between featured acts that they think the kids should be into... and which they are not.

Hence the rise of the fanzine.

From Oz, the psychedelic bible.

through to the medium's punk heyday, with *Sniffin' Glue* and the *Manchester Review*, for many years it was fanzines that provided the only "real" insight. With the demise of punk, however, the fanzines were

forced further underground and those still in circulation today suffer from a uniform lack of sales, interest or quality. The anarchist design no longer appears dangerous or challenging in these days of desktop publishing - just cheap.

So the last few years has seen the rise of another platform for new and innovative writing and design. Loosely labelled as "Regional Magazines", they occupy the middle ground between the mainstream

and the "alternative": magazines such as *Flux* in Manchester, *Hybrid* in Leicester, and *Mileshead* in London are setting their own agendas and standards.

Lee Taylor is the editor of *Flux*, a Manchester-based bi-monthly magazine. "I feel we have a massive edge over things like the NME," he says, "because we're based in the North - the mainstream press seem to be so London-obsessed, and young people north of Watford can't relate to that.

We don't have the aloofness or complacency of the bigger boys."

*Flux* was started by Lee and co-editor Claire Lomax in March 1997, born out of a growing sense of frustration with what was on offer. "There wasn't a magazine available that excited me any more," he says. "So I just thought, sod it, I'll start my own. There's such a wealth of writers, designers and photographers all itching to prove themselves."

One such writer is music editor

Paul Mahony. Despite having little in the way of formal journalistic training, since starting at *Flux*, he has found his career taking off, and now co-ordinates the clubbing section of the *Manchester Evening News*. He firmly believes in the sense of shared communion regional magazines give their readers: "Contemporary culture is so unstable that there's a market there for anything that can keep pace with what's really happening," he says.

In the 15 or so months that *Flux*

has been on the news-stands, it has grown from an initial print run of 1500 to a readership approaching 30,000 across the North. Lee Taylor is slightly startled by the speed at which it has taken off: "You build up your own natural momentum, make a connection, hit a few nerves, and before you know it there's a real buzz. It's a connection thing, like how all scenes build up. I dare say that in 10 years time we'll all be fat and complacent too, and someone else will be doing the shouting - but for the moment I really feel we're doing something fresh and exciting, and even important."

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**The delay in the Government's legal aid reforms aimed at bringing in conditional fee agreements has renewed concern over medical negligence cases. By Grania Langdon-Down**



Noel and Janet Baldwin with a photograph of their son, Patrick. "We would never have got into court without legal aid" Joan Russell/Guzelian

## Lawyers on a loser with no win, no fee cases

**SOLICITORS** CONSIDERING taking on medical negligence cases under conditional "no win, no fee" agreements should steer well clear, according to **Kerry Underwood**, a solicitor who specialises in personal injury cases.

Underwood, an authority on conditional fee agreements (CFAs), says in his book *No Win No Fee - No Worries*, to be published next week, that there is no commercial basis for taking on such agreements.

The Lord Chancellor told a recent Legal Action Group/Justice conference he would be delaying until the autumn his reform of the legal aid system, including replacing legal aid in personal injury cases with conditional fees, as part of a modernisation of justice White Paper.

Lord Irvine has already agreed to exempt medical negligence claims from his current proposals. But many lawyers fear it is only a temporary stay of execution given the Government's commitment to "refocusing" legal aid on social welfare issues, such as family and housing, and away from money claims.

However, Underwood does not mince his words about the difficulties of taking on medical negligence cases under CFAs: "My advice, on a commercial basis," he says, "is that conditional fee medical negligence work should not be touched with a bargepole."

The problems are twofold: the high costs of initial investigations on the merits of a case - generally between £2,000 and £5,000 for expert reports; and the expense of insuring against losing and having to pay the other's side's costs, with premiums

currently running at between £5,000 and £20,000 for £100,000 of cover.

Underwood says: "There is evidence that the Lord Chancellor realises that the Government has made a mistake in proposing to abolish legal aid for medical negligence cases. Television pictures of brain damaged children whose families cannot afford to seek compensation do not fit well with the notion of a caring government."

However, his suggestion in the Lords in December that alternative arrangements could be made with banks and financial institutions to help lawyers bear the risks and costs of medical negligence claims indicates the case is not yet won.

Underwood argues that the "real answer" lies in the Government offering no-fault liability compensation.

He says that most complex medical negligence cases involve individuals taking on the State in the guise of national health trusts and much of the cost of litigation comes from the tenacious way those trusts fight damage claims.

"Take lawyers out of claims. Take doctors out of them. As part of society's deal with itself, we should agree that anyone injured as a result of medical treatment, negligent or otherwise, should receive compensation paid for out of the National Health Service budget, in turn, paid for out of general taxation. It would represent a tiny percentage of NHS expenditure."

Dan Brennan QC, Bar Council vice-chair and a personal injury specialist, is more optimistic that the Lord Chancellor will accept the argument that legal aid should stay for

medical negligence claims. "It would be harsh if the Government made those with reasonable claims enter into onerous CFAs to sue what are, in effect, organs of the State, he says. "These are not the sort of cases the Government can sweep away, and I think it will take a long time before it finally decides what to do."

Certainly any suggestion that

against the Department of Health, and compensation of £125,000.

Baldwin says: "We would never have got into court without legal aid. The research came to something like £400,000. There is no way individuals could pay those sort of costs or solicitors fund that sort of work under conditional fee agreements - it would bankrupt them."

Baldwin's solicitor David Body of Irwin Mitchell, is the co-ordinating solicitor for all UK cases of contaminated human growth hormone.

"CFAs can be made to work in this field but only as a complement to legal aid. Would we have taken on the CJD cases on the back of CFAs? I would have to say no. However bold you feel about the strength of the cases, the extraordinary tenacity of the Department of Health in fighting them would have stopped us."

Body says that legal aid was "the key" to the courtroom door, because it enabled individuals to take on an organisation, no matter how big, on an equal footing. CFAs largely depended on the boldness of the lawyer involved.

"Civil legal aid in personal injury cases is not a huge cost to the public purse because so many cases are won or settled with the costs recovered. Our frustration is that the Lord Chancellor has blackened everybody in his condemnation of legal aid spending," says Body.

Vicki Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group agrees. She points to a speech Lord Irvine made as shadow Lord Chancellor in 1996 when he said that legal aid was "conspicuously successful" in personal injury litigation. "One key problem

of medical negligence cases is the high investigative costs. Lord Irvine says that only 17 per cent of cases succeed. But that is misleading - that is 17 per cent of cases where legal aid is granted. Half the cases fall out after the initial investigation. But of the half that go on, about 41 per cent settle or win at trial.

"And if you take away legal aid, who is going to fund that initial investigation? It is why the Government has backed off in favour of trying to bring costs down by confirming legal aid to specialist lawyers."

For solicitor Sarah Harman who is representing 75 women suing Kent and Canterbury hospitals NHS Trust over inaccurate cervical smears, the fact her initial clients had legal aid helped her to establish deficiencies going back 10 years. This led to a government inquiry and the discovery that eight women had died as a result. "Yet although these are very good cases, I have not yet been able to get insurance cover for claims being brought under CFAs."

Some less serious cases have settled, offers made in others, and proceedings begun in another 14. "In the context of the huge failings in the local screening service, it is amazing the trust should conduct these cases in such a way," says Harman. "A different approach would have alleviated the need for court proceedings and saved public expense."

The Health Secretary Frank Dobson should remember that when he talks about the cost of litigation being a drain on the NHS. He should be taking these cases out of civil litigation and compensating victims through a disaster fund."

## Equality in the law will bring benefits for all

### OUR LEARNED FRIEND



MARGARET McCABE

THE RECENT Women in Law conference chaired by Cherie Booth QC and attended by Heather Hallett QC, chair of the Bar Council, Jane Whittaker, chair of the Law Society's Equal Opportunities committee, and many other leading women lawyers and judges from across Europe, did not signify the end of the argument for women's equality in the legal profession - rather the beginning of the dialogue.

Five years ago I did not think it possible that the English legal profession could see itself in the forefront of addressing discrimination in a pan-European setting.

The conference covered the role and progress of women in the law across Europe, and I came away with the insight that, irrespective of the language, culture, religion or degree of progress, the issues are the same everywhere.

Some are at different stages in addressing the problems but they were all instantly recognisable to each other. We spoke the same language and soon realised that there was much to be gained by working together.

The Eurowoman dialogue has begun and the momentum is beginning to grow.

Women lawyers reflect women in the wider working community and face discrimination at key stages in their working lives whether it is in Spain, Germany, Poland, France, both Irelands, England - across the EU. This is largely institutional discrimination and is encountered at entry to the profession, following maternity breaks and at the stage of promotion and affects overall career development. The glass ceiling is still a reality for many, despite senior women achieving top positions in the law.

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I spoke on sexual harassment in the workshop chaired by Janet Gaynor, head of employment law at City law firm Simmons & Simmons. My professional experience is that this is a bigger problem than when the subject was addressed at the first Woman Lawyer Conference in 1996.

Many characterise sexual harassment as a chance rude remark or "hands up skirts" and feel defensive that this remedy gives unfair power to women and puts men at the mercy of scheming women.

In England, we have legal remedies available to claim compensation for harassment and large sums are being awarded. In the US, one law firm had to pay 10 per cent of its gross fee income as damages in a sexual harassment case where a lawyer had harassed his secretary (but this was later reduced on appeal).

The message of the Paris conference is that to lose one's career and suffer serious illness cannot be compensated.

Ensuring proper procedures are in place is essential, and the only way forward in today's

work environment. This translates into practice as a real and effective grievance procedure which needs an independent person briefed in discrimination issues to investigate the problem as soon as it arises. Referral to counselling may be advisable at this stage.

By no means all firms or chambers have the Law Society measures or the Bar Council's equality code in place, let alone implement them, but there is optimism.

Things have improved a great deal here by virtue of the professional bodies' support for these measures and the lobbying (in the traditional sense) of vital pressure groups such as the Association of Women Barristers and the Association of Women Solicitors, together with conferences aimed at discussing these matters.

Good role models and women seen to be supporting others will ensure progress. We now have fantastic role models for the younger generation of lawyers - and many were at the Paris conference.

I came away from the conference realising that equality of role and status of women in the profession in Europe will be achieved by a change in the culture, and that will be achieved by applying the law of the EU. European discrimination law has greatly helped women in this country and can be applied in individual cases across the EU. A Spanish or German lawyer can be assisted by the same EU law.

In each country, the profession is at different stages of awareness of the issues and of how to solve the problems. Stereotyping of women is universal - from child and family law, the civil service and the lower-paid non-commercial work.

Although these changes will be driven home by women claiming their rights, flexible working patterns, parental leave and quality of life issues will benefit all employees. These issues are fundamental human rights and all will benefit.

Margaret McCabe is a practising barrister and founder of The Woman Lawyer conferences.

### IN BRIEF

LEGAL AID lawyers got a reprieve with the announcement that the Government has departed from its Conservative predecessor's legal aid spending plans and will not cut the legal aid budget until the financial year 2000/2001.

Under plans announced by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, this week, the estimate for legal aid spending this year will be £1.6 billion, with a 2 per cent increase for 1999/2000. The following year, the budget is forecast to be cut by 1 per cent to £1.62 billion, and in 2001/2002 by 1 per cent to £1.55 billion.

CIVIL LIBERTIES pressure group, Liberty, is holding its summer conference today and tomorrow, covering the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law with the Human Rights Act 1998, and the future of human rights in the UK. A discussion panel chaired by Polly Toynbee includes Baroness Helena Kennedy of The Shaws QC, David Pannick QC and Ross Cranston MP.

CITY LAW firm Freshfields will

be opening a new office in Washington, and has taken on project and finance partner Thomas Hechtl from US firm Chadbourne & Parke. Closer to home Linklaters & Paines is poised to take the lead in the race with Clifford Chance and Freshfields to dominate the European legal marketplace - all 221 Linklaters partners voted yesterday on whether to join with law firms in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Sweden to form the world's largest pan-European federation of lawyers. The result of the vote will be announced shortly.

STILL IN the City, a confidential and unpublished interim survey of assistant solicitor turnover levels in City law firms shows that a number of the larger firms have a turnover as high as 40 per cent.

The figures, which were compiled unofficially by the personnel departments of leading City law firms, suggest that the pressure of work is causing a high rate of burnout among young lawyers, and that even the best performing firms are losing around 15 per cent of their assistant solicitors due to this reason.

THE sacked political consultant, Derek Draper, the man at the heart of the "cash-for-access" affair, is still looking for a high-profile lobbying job. He could do a lot worse than dash off his CV to both the Law Society and the Bar Council. This week, the legal profession's two representative bodies will complete their recruitment exercises for new parliamentary and PR advisers. The Bar Council is hearing submissions from four lobbying and public relations companies, while today is the closing date for candidates applying for the post of head of the Law Society's parliamentary unit.

The winning candidates should know what they are letting themselves in for. The frequency and ferocity of recent attacks on solicitors and barristers by both the Lord Chancellor and the media have forced the legal profession to gear up its public relations and political lobbying operations.

The Bar Council has traditionally gone outside for its PR and parliamentary advice - this contract is thought to be worth about £200,000. But the Law Society no longer uses lobbying consultancies in the same way it did when it consulted Sir Tim Bell, the Conservative PR guru.

during the days of Mexican stand-offs with the last Conservative administration. Instead, the Law Society puts great store by its own parliamentary unit.

Chris Philipsborn, the current head of the unit, says that external consultancies should only be used on an *ad hoc* basis to give an outside perspective to an issue. To this end, the Law Society recently used Sandwick Public Affairs to sit in on a beauty parade of advertising agencies when the society was considering advertising campaign in defence of legal aid.

Mr Philipsborn, who is leaving to join British Telecom as a senior public affairs adviser, says: "We spent a lot of time cultivating Labour and that is now paying off. The difficulty of taking on an outside lobbying firm is that you don't cultivate anything in-house. Most consultancies can't do that. What they tend to do is take on Conservative people when there is a Conservative government, and take on Labour people when there is a Labour government."

He says that using outside lobbyists does nothing for building an organisation's profile and reputation in Parliament. Instead, claims Philipsborn, that organisation runs the risk of becoming identified

with the governing party of the day. Since the Eighties, the Bar has bought in its public relations and public policy advisory services. For the past eight years, this has been undertaken by Westminster Strategy, the political lobbyists and PR firm.

This week, the Bar Council, through Westminster Strategy, was keen to emphasise the PR role over

that lobbying is about using the golden contacts book to influence government. Instead, he argues that organisations such as the Bar and the Law Society will always remain "their own best advocates".

Nevertheless, Mr McLeod maintains that the old days of "cosy fire-side chats" between members of the legal profession and the Government are also over. "Maybe" adds Mr McLeod. "The Bar thought that, given the overwhelming numbers of barristers at the top of Labour, this might continue after the election of the Labour government." Now, he says: "There is a crucial need to go on to the offensive; they do need to set the agenda and that is not happening."

The size of Labour's majority means that the PR and lobbying firms are redirecting their efforts from Westminster to Fleet Street in an attempt to influence the same tabloid media which New Labour now takes so seriously. The legal profession will have to follow suit, says Mr McLeod: "In the past, the Bar Council's response to adverse criticism in a mass circulation tabloid, like *The Sun*, has been to print an article in the Bar's own in-house magazine *Counsel*".

## Wanted: a legal lobbyist

The legal profession is taking steps to improve the bad press that it has suffered recently. By Robert Verkaik

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LEARNED  
FRIEND

## NEW FILMS

### THE THIEF (15)

Director: Pavel Chukhrai  
Starring: Misha Philipchuk, Vladimir Mashkov  
The *Thief* is a familiar story, told with competence, but it's only the passionate acting which makes the film special. In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of the Second World War, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for that brand of unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle and by Tarkovsky. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off.

Chukhrai is an alert director, but he does too much of the work for his audience; his film is most striking when it rests on intimation, such as when it is steadily building the relationship between the child Sanya (Misha Philipchuk) and his mother's lover, Tolya (Vladimir Mashkov), who wears a soldier's uniform but carries a kit-bag bulging with looted crockery and cutlery. He's the thief of the title, and the suggestion is that he has filched more than just other people's goblets; he's stolen the heart of Katya (Ekaterina Rednikova) and the innocence of her little boy too.

Chukhrai lets the story unfold until the final 15 minutes, when it seems to go disastrously wrong. He attempts to tie up the loose ends and solve all the mysteries. But some of us like to have those loose ends flapping around in the memory.

CW: *Renoir*

### GODZILLA (PG)

Director: Roland Emmerich  
Starring: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno  
New York is in turmoil. People are running through the streets screaming, and though the police are desperately trying to restore calm, even they are wondering if the Big Apple will ever recover.

Yes, Tina Brown has left the building. Oh, and there's also a giant lizard rampaging through the streets, lunging on skyscrapers andrazing Madison Avenue with one belligerent flick of its tail. But anyway, never mind all that: what next for Tina after *The New Yorker*?

Indeed, there is scarcely one minute of *Godzilla* when you actually feel moved to any reaction, let alone one of terror or excitement. The team of Roland

Emmerich (director and co-writer) and Dean Devlin (producer and co-writer) are generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun (*Starship* and *Independence Day*), but their touch evades them on *Godzilla*.

The script tosses in characters and conflicts which aren't followed through and it doesn't take long for it all to descend from a nuclear-age parable to a numb, dumb succession of chases.

It's hard to imagine who might get a kick out of *Godzilla*, except for New Yorkers who like to imagine their city starting again from scratch. CW: ABC *Baker Street*, ABC *Tottenham Court Road*, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE LITTLE MERMAID (U) Animated Feature

Director: John Musker and Ron Clements  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right  
CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Director: Steve Gomer  
Starring: Barney the Dinosaur  
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the pre-school viewer – but an endurance test for anyone else.

CW: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (18)

Director: Wolfgang Becker  
Starring: Jürgen Vogel, Ricky Tomlinson  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right  
CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minima

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

### CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel deciding whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with the mortal Meg Ryan. *West End*: ABC *Baker St*, ABC *Tottenham Court Rd*, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser and a junkie with a month to live and give them some time together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream With The Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem deserved. *West End*: *Metro*

### GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer sufferer who jets off to Las Vegas for a last holiday with her sister-in-law Julie Walters. Initially bubbly, the film becomes grossly manipulative. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre. The lively script is complimented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. *West End*: *Rio Cinema*

### GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

What fun it could have been from a second viewing of this 20 year old nostalgia film is mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased up hero. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### GURU IN SEVEN (18)

A thoroughly dismal, witless British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of *Alfie*. CW: ABC *Piccadilly*, Virgin Trocadero

### KISS OR KILL (18)

Australian road movie come serial killer drama about a couple of scam merchants. Pretentious in some places, it still manages to be agreeably nasty in others. CW: ABC *Shaftesbury Avenue*, Odeon Camden Town

### KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary, directed by Nick Broomfield, investigating the death of the Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain, and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. CW: Ritzy Cinema, *Screen on the Green*, Warner Village West End

### THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A dip into the life of the Beat icon Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. *West End*: ABC *Piccadilly*

### LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwieliowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gala Notting Hill, Metro, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, *Screen on Baker Street*, *Screen on the Hill*, Virgin Haymarket

### MAD CITY (15)

Dustin Hoffman plays a reporter caught in a hostage situation in a museum, where a disgruntled ex-employee, played by John Travolta, has produced a gun in an attempt to get his job back. The film becomes a series of reflex attacks on the moral bankruptcy of television and, by extension, the late 20th century. CW: ABC *Baker Street*, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species in this ingenious science-fiction-horror fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### MOJO (15)

Set in a mythologised 1950s Soho inhabited by petty gangsters, *Mojo* never entirely escapes its theatrical roots. But it concentrates on sexual tension in a way which American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

### THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings and joint burial plots by revealing that he is gay. CW: ABC *Tottenham Court Road*, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### PALMETTO (15)

Ironic film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Violette Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

### SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths by gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer before becoming a hired killer. *West End*: Virgin Haymarket

### SLING BLADE (15)

Intelligent and unsettling drama starring writer-director Billy Bob Thornton as a mentally disabled man who is released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. He is welcomed into the home of a young boy whom he befriends. CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

### SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

### STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Disappointing spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *The Lion in Winter*. CW: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

### THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. *West End*: Renoir

### TOUCH (15)

Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. CW: Plaza

### THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. *Homefront*. CW: Plaza

### METRO (15)

ABC *Baker Street*, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

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**RADIO 1**  
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Kevin Greene and Zoe Ball: Fax the programme on 0645 11010.  
9.00 Simon Mayo: Topical gags, topical games, topical tunes. Fax the programme on 0645 110100.  
12.00 Jayne Middlemiss. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce: Including today's rundown of Radio 1's Most Wanted Top 10. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 8.30 Dave Pearce's Live Dance Party. 10.30 Westwood. 11.00 Radio 1 Rap Show: Hardest-edged rap and hip-hop vibes. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92MHz FM)

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

The classic hits, new chart breakers, love songs, the Headline Hunt and the PopMaster Quiz. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 David Stewart.

5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Disney's Women. 7.30 Friday Night's Music Night. 9.15 Clochermore. 9.30 Listen to a session from the Enfield Citadel Band conducted by Richard Phillips. 10.00 David Jacobs.

10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Jeff Owen. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-94MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Rameau.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

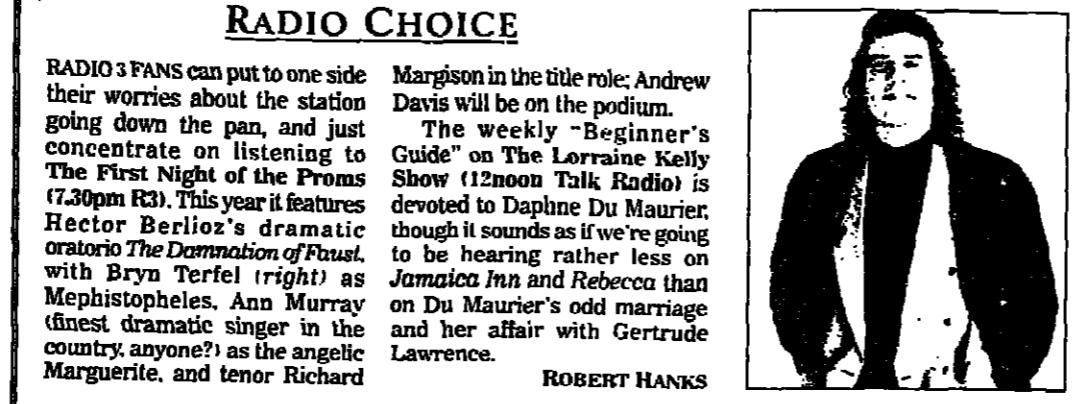
2.00 The BBC Archive.

4.00 Music Restored.

4.45 Music Machine.

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 BBC Proms 98. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London. Berlioz's blazingly dramatic and colourful score launches the 1998 Proms season, whose themes include magic and power. Faust sells his soul to the Devil and is eventually swept to hell, while the innocent Marguerite is raised to heaven by angels. Berlioz: The Damnation of Faust. Richard Margison, tenor



### RADIO CHOICE

RADIO 3 FANS can put to one side their worries about the station going down the pan, and just concentrate on listening to The First Night of the Proms (7.30pm R3). This year it features Hector Berlioz's dramatic oratorio *The Damnation of Faust*, with Bryn Terfel (right) as Mephistopheles. Ann Murray (finest dramatic singer in the country, anyone?) as the angelic Marguerite, and tenor Richard

Margison in the title role; Andrew Davis will be on the podium.

The weekly "Beginner's Guide" on The Lorraine Kelly Show (12noon Talk Radio) is devoted to Daphne Du Maurier, though it sounds as if we're going to be hearing rather less on *Jamaica Inn* and *Rebecca* than on Du Maurier's odd marriage and her affair with Gertrude Lawrence.

ROBERT HANKS

(Faust), Bryn Terfel, baritone (Mephistopheles), Ann Murray, mezzo (Marguerite), Donald Maxwell, baritone (Brander), BBC Singers, New London Children's Choir, BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, and David Davis. Parts 1 and 2. See Choice, above

8.35 Hell and Damnation. From his lofty perspective in the marble halls of heaven, presenter James Naughtie surveys the landscape of hell and its dreadful grip on the imaginations of musicians.

8.55 The Damnation of Faust. Parts 3 and 4.

10.20 Bright and Now. A concert given last Friday at the Cheltenham Festival, introduced by Verity Sharp in conversation with George Benjamin. John Constable (piano), Paul Silverthorne and Garth Knox (violas), London Sinfonietta/George Benjamin: Carter: Lumen (first UK performance). Benjamin: Viola, Violin (first UK performance). Donatoni: Raffini: Varesi: Octandre. Benjamin: At First Light.

11.30 Bright Size Life.

12.00 Composers of the Week: William Byrd and Thomas Tallis. (R1)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: A Boy at the Hogarth Press. (R1)

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: The Garden. (R1)

11.30 Like They've Never Been Gone.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Who Goes There?

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Unwritten Law.

3.00 NEWS: Veg Talk (0171) 580 4444.

3.30 A View with a Room.

3.45 Feedback.

4.00 NEWS: Open Book.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 RTTF.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.30 Front Row. John Wilson presents the arts programme.

7.45 Under One Roof: School's Out. By Wendy Lee, based on the original story by Michelle Hanson. Chobes school career is over and everyone but Gillian is in holiday mood. With Paula Dionisioti, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director Tabitha Potts (5/5).

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?

Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Prudhoe, Northumberland, by panellists David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment; Bea Campbell, broadcaster and journalist; Boris Johnson, Daily Telegraph columnist; and George Walden, former Conservative minister.



Today in Parliament.

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
(693, 909kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Brian Hayes.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 The Open.

8.00 Friday Sport. Bob Ballard introduces coverage of all the night's live action, including Halifax Blue Sox v Sheffield Eagles in rugby league's Super League.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Partick, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM**  
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
(121.1-127.6kHz MW)

7.00 Jonathan Ross. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Robin Banks. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janet Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Howard Pearce.

**WORLD SERVICE**  
(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Songs of Home.

2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 World News. 4.35 World Business Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup.

4.30 Weekend/Insight (SW)

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

**RADIO 4 LW**  
(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines:

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57

Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 6.00

### SATELLITE AND CABLE

### INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

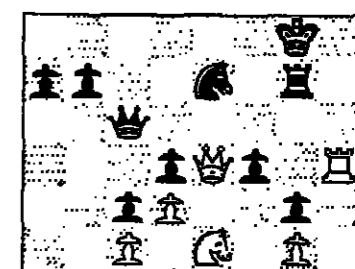
#### CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

DANNY GORMALLY of Charlton had an excellent result in the Politiken Cup in Copenhagen where he has shared first place with the top-seeded Icelandic grandmaster Hannes Stefansson and three other players. The following game from the penultimate round played an important part in his success.

Directing the game away from a Sicilian by playing 3.d3 instead of 3.d4, Gormally steered it into still more unexplored waters with 8.exd5 in place of the usual plan of Re1, Qe2 and e5. White's idea was revealed with 9.d4? when 9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Bb6 gives White excellent prospects for his pawn. Black began to go astray when he exchanged white-squared bishops with 19...Bg4 and 20...Bx3. He may have thought that his pawns were gaining space on the K-side, but they left gaping undefended spaces behind them which 22.Qh1 began to exploit.

With weaknesses at f5 and d5, and a king in need of shelter, Black did well to hold his position as long as he did. At the end (see diagram) material was still level but the f5 pawn is about to fall, with g4 or d5 to follow. 36...Qg6 loses to 37.Nxf5 and 36...Rf7 to 37.Rg5+.



**White:** Daniel Gormally  
**Black:** Darius Zagorskis  
1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 e6  
3 d4 Nc6  
4 g3 d5  
5 Nbd2 g6  
6 Bg2 Bg7  
7 0-0 Nge7  
8 exd5 exd5  
9 d4 c4  
10 Bb6 Bxh6  
11 Qe1 0-0  
12 Nd1 h6  
13 h4 Re8  
14 Bf4 Qd7  
15 Nes Nxe5  
16 Bxe5 f6  
17 Bf4 g5  
18 h5 Qe5 resigns

### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

Game all; dealer South	
North	♦ K 10 8 3
♦ 6	♦ K 4
♦ Q 10 9 7 3	
West	East
♦ A Q J 9	♦ 6 4
♦ 10 8 5 2	♦ J 9 7 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 2	♦ 5 3
♦ 2	♦ A K 5 4
South	
♦ 7 5	
♦ A K Q	
♦ A J 9 7 6	
♦ J 8 6	

WEST would have been no story if West had led a low heart against Three No-trumps and dummy's king won. A low club from the table at trick two gave East an immediate problem. You can see what would have happened if he had won either the first or second round of clubs: with ♠ K as an entry to the table, declarer would be able to establish and run the suit, ending with three clubs, two diamonds, three hearts, and a spade. So East cashed off twice, waiting for a third round of clubs.

He is still waiting, for with two club tricks in the bag and no hope of a third, declarer turned his attention to diamonds. He cashed ♠ K and finessed ♠ J, losing to the queen. It was safe enough now for West to cash his two spade tricks but South simply discarded his remaining club.

After taking the heart switch (for West had partied with ♠ Q on the second round of clubs – if he had thrown a heart, declarer cashes his hearts before playing on diamonds and comes to an over-trick. South cleared the diamonds and had the remaining tricks. As a result, East's ♠ A.K never featured in the play.

Of course, if they had played their part, West would not have come to any diamond tricks.

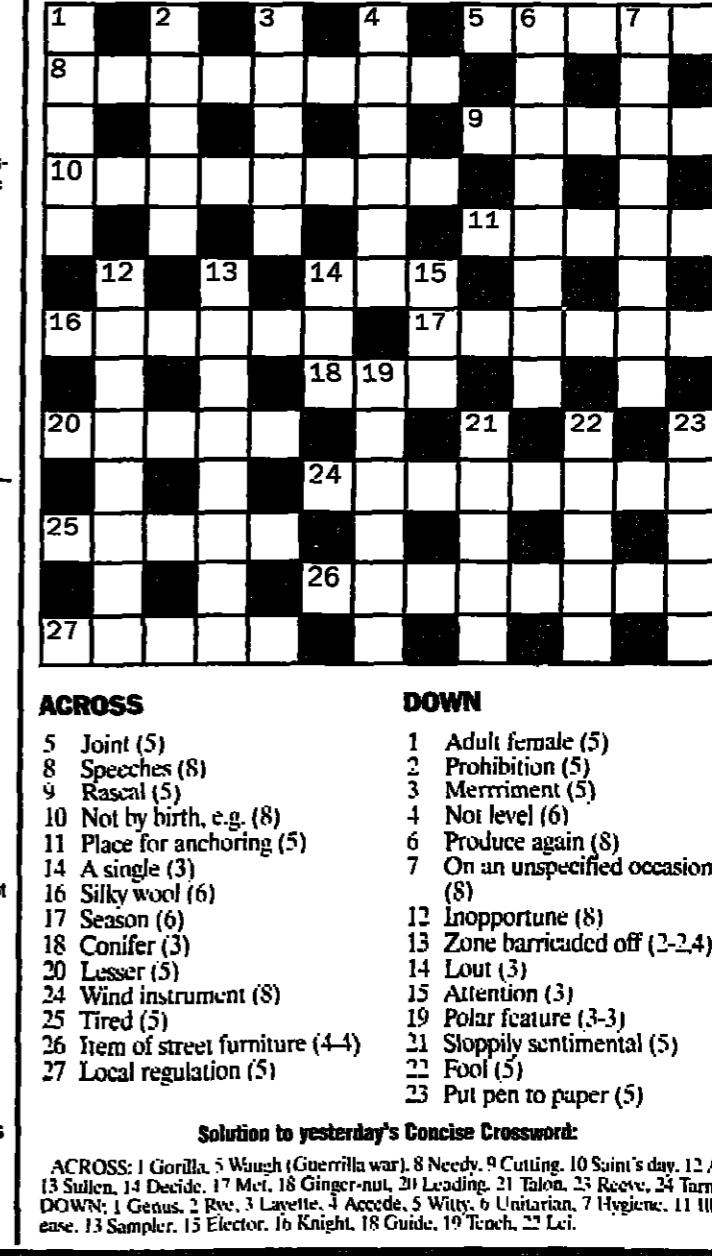
### PUZZLE

A LINGUISTIC curiosity today: Can you find four common four-letter words that are anagrams of each other, each beginning with a different letter?

(Answer tomorrow)

### CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3665 Friday 17 July



#### ACROSS

- Joint (5)
- Speeches (8)
- Rascal (5)
- Not by birth, e.g. (8)
- Place for anchoring (5)
- A single (3)
- Silky wool (6)
- Season (6)
- Conifer (3)
- Lou (3)
-

